

THE MILITANT

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Pathfinder prepares to go
from computers to plates

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Thousands protest as prices soar in Indonesia

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Demonstrations and food riots are breaking out across Indonesia, as the deepening economic crisis there sharpens tensions between the capitalist rulers in Indonesia and their imperial masters in the United States, Germany, and Japan. President Suharto discharged Sudradjad Djiwandono, the head of the central bank, February 17 in a step toward setting up a currency board to halt further devaluations of the rupiah, the country's currency.

Such a move would aim to strengthen the rupiah in order to reduce rising costs of imported goods that sparked protests throughout the country. The Clinton administration and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials are opposed to establishing a currency board there and threatened to yank the \$40 billion "rescue" package negotiated last November. "There is a very real risk that everything could unravel," said an unnamed White House official responding to the termination of Sudradjad Djiwandono.

Meanwhile, thousands of people protested rising food prices in four towns February 13. Some 2,000 students rallied on the islands of Sulawesi and Lombok over the weekend of February 14-15, and in Jakarta

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40,000 visit Havana international book fair

JOSHUA CARROLL
AND MICHAEL BAUMANN

HAVANA — "That's exactly what we do!" said Antonio Abreu, as he visited the Pathfinder booth and pointed to a photo of a book sale from the back of a truck at a mine portal in West Virginia.

Abreu, the director of book distribution for the province of Camagüey and a frequent organizer of factory plant gate sales, was one of more than 40,000 people who visited the eighth Havana International Book Fair, held here February 4-10. Hundreds lined up each morning well in advance of the daily opening, in order to gain entrance to the exhibition.

The book fair, a major cultural and political discussion for thousands of participants.

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Pathfinder booth at Havana book fair was a place of nonstop political discussion for thousands of participants.

Stop the imperialist slaughter in Iraq!

"We are the greatest country in the world... and what we are doing is serving the role of the indispensable nation to see what we can do to make the world safer for our children and grandchildren and for those people around the world who follow the rules."

— U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright, Feb. 18, 1998

With her trademark coarseness, Albright, addressing a meeting at Ohio State University in Columbus, put her finger on the true

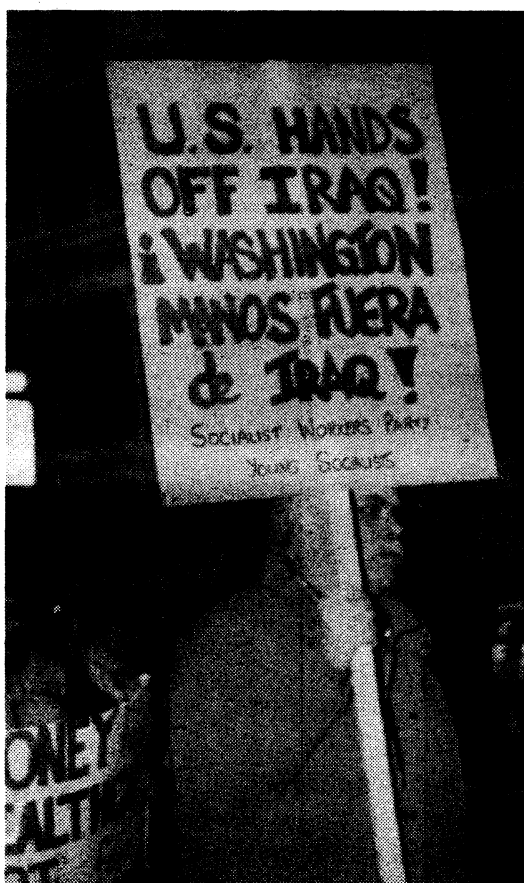
EDITORIAL

course of the propertied U.S. rulers not only toward Iraq, but the rest of the world. She was simply repeating her commander-in-chief, William Jefferson Clinton, who in his second inaugural speech in January 1997 proclaimed the United States "the world's indispensable nation." The message is that Washington — acting unilaterally and relying more and more on military force — will target for brutal punishment "those people" who don't "follow the rules" it sets.

To Albright's stunned surprise, a substantial number of people in the Columbus audience of 6,000 loudly challenged U.S. government plans to launch a military assault on Iraq. These protests by youth helped turn the "town meeting," designed to drum up public support for the bombing of Iraq, into a fiasco for Albright and company.

But such antiwar sentiment will not stay Washington's hand. The

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Left, photo run in the February 11 *El Mensajero*, a bilingual weekly in the San Francisco Bay Area, of protest against U.S. war moves. Right, Baghdad youth rally against imperialist assault.



White House prepares bombing assault

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

"What we are doing is serving the role of the indispensable nation," declared U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright at the close of a February 18 "international town hall meeting." The massive bombing of Iraq that Washington is about to unleash will aim to "make the world safer for ... those people around the world who follow the rules," Albright asserted. Defense Secretary William Cohen and national security adviser Samuel

Berger joined Albright on the stage for the meeting, which was organized as part of the Clinton administration's final war preparations.

The event didn't come off quite as planned, though. Some 6,000 people attended the "town hall" meeting at Ohio State University in Columbus, which was televised live around the world by CNN. Among them were a couple dozen who disrupted Albright's opening remarks for several

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Honeywell strikers in Minnesota push back some concession demands

BY JOE CALLAHAN
AND JEFF JONES

MINNEAPOLIS — By a 1,024-to-1,016 vote, members of Teamsters Local 1145 accepted a new contract offer by Honeywell at a stormy union meeting at the Minneapolis Convention Center on February 15. Workers returned to work the following day at the three Honeywell plants in this area, which had been shut for two weeks by the walkout. The company manufactures electronic controls for war planes and other aircraft.

This contract offer dropped a proposal for a two-tier system of medical insurance benefits with new workers having to make 20 percent co-payments. But

it includes a two-tier wage setup under which new hires will start at \$9 an hour and take four years to catch up to current employees who make \$12 an hour. The contract also forces new hires to accept a cash buyout pension rather than the defined benefit option available to present employees.

Workers who opposed the contract were strongly against these concessions, and also felt that the wage and pension increases were inadequate. The contract provides wage increases of 4 percent the first two years and 3 percent the following two.

At a February 13 rally of 300 people outside the company's northeast Minneapolis plant, speaker after speaker denounced the contract as not being much different than the one rejected earlier by workers by a 58 percent to 42 percent margin. Many workers were upset at the results of the meeting and vowed to protest the vote count. Others said they were glad to be going back to work.

"We could have won a lot more if we had stayed out another week," said Charlene Parsons, a screw machine operator at Honeywell's Golden Valley production

plant. Defeating the 20 percent medical co-payment was "very important," she said. "If that had been accepted the company would have proposed it for everybody in the next contract and it would have been difficult to defeat." But "the two-tier agreement on wages and benefits that were accepted are very bad for us," Parsons added.

Don Miller, who works in the cafeteria of the Camden plant, said, "I voted no on the contract proposal, but I think the strike wasn't really worth it," citing the low wage increases.

"It was worth it," said Kevin, a worker at the Minneapolis production plant who asked that his last name not be printed. Pointing to Honeywell's retreat on the medical co-payment issue, he said, "The company was feeling heat from our strike. We made a statement."

Joe Callahan is a member of United Auto Workers Local 879. Jeff Jones is a member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1833. Tom Fiske, also a member of the IAM, contributed to this article.

Russia: Ultrationalist Lebed runs for governor

Ultrationalist Alexander Lebed announced February 13 his decision to run for governor in the central Siberian province of Krasnoyarsk, the second-largest region in Russia. After failing to win the presidency in 1996, Lebed accepted the post of presidential security chief under Boris Yeltsin. That summer he was Moscow's representative in negotiations that ended the war of independence in Chechnya. Lebed was later given the boot by Yeltsin, and went on to form his own political party. The Honor and Motherland party announced February 11 it had started to collect the 20,000 signatures needed to register the former paratroop commander for the April 26 elections. Lebed now says he intends to run for president in 2000.

Portugal: abortion rights gains

The Portuguese parliament passed a bill February 4 that allows women to have abortions upon request up to the 10th week of pregnancy. Until now, Portugal has some of the strictest abortion laws in Europe, allowing abortion in such cases as fetus malformation or risk to the woman's life. Some government officials who oppose this change are pressuring parliament to call a national referendum — which would be the country's first — on the issue. Without a referendum to override the new abortion rights legislation, the law goes into effect 90 days after the laws passage.

Madrid cuts medicine subsidies

On February 11 the Spanish government approved a public health law that will require recipients to pay full price for 869 types of medicine considered "minor." Spain's state health system generally covers 60 percent of the cost of pharmaceuticals, 90 percent for chronic cases such as AIDS, and full cost for pensioners. In 1996 Madrid had floated the idea of a standard prescrip-

tion charge, but backed down in the face of protests.

Egyptian farmers fight evictions

On February 10 farmers in Ibrahimiya, 62 miles north of Cairo, Egypt, threw stones at police who tried to oust a tenant farmer. Cops used tear gas in an attempt to break up the protest, killing one peasant. Under a new land law, owners can end tenant agreements and force peasant farmers to pay higher rents or leave the land.

Sierra Leone capital seized

After three days of heavy bombing and fighting, Nigerian-led forces took over the capital city of Freetown in Sierra Leone February 13. The invasion will now clear the way to reinstate the former president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, a bourgeois politician who served as president of Sierra Leone for only one year. Last May Kabbah was ousted in a military coup that brought a junta into power.



Around 1,000 people, including 36 students from Lino Padrón Rivera High School, demonstrated February 1 in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, against a proposed rocket launch. The rocket contains fuel that, when mixed with the atmosphere, can produce hydrochloric acid. The banner reads, "Puerto Rico doesn't want to be another endangered species."

Militant/Ron Richards

The invasion was organized under Ecomog, a so-called peacekeeping force made up of troops from several African countries and dominated by the Nigerian regime. Ecomog forces, with the blessings of Kabbah's regime and the United Nations Security Council, will be deployed throughout Sierra Leone to carry out the "disarmament and demobilization" of the population.

Workers in Brazil protest cuts in social security, job protections

Workers demonstrated outside the Congress building in Brasília, Brazil, February 11 over attacks in social security benefits and job security. Work stoppages were reported, and workers and pensioners threw counterfeit bills at politicians at the airport as they arrived to vote. The Congress approved a constitutional amendment February 12 as heavily armed cops surrounded the building. The new law raises the minimum retirement age to 55 for women and from 50 to 60 years for men. The previous system, won by workers in the 1950s, had allowed men and women to retire after 30 and 25 years of work respectively. Now the minimum time needed is 35 and 30 years. The law also abolishes other rights, including early retirement. Another part of the legislation, approved the day before, attacks job security for all public workers who previously acquired tenure after two years' service. The recent law now allows for public workers to be dismissed. Brazil's unemployment is at a record level of more than 7 percent and is expected to rise sharply this year.

110,000 women sterilized in Peru

The Peruvian government has allegedly organized a system of quotas that offers pub-

lic health doctors promotions in exchange for convincing women, mostly in poor rural areas, to be sterilized. Since the Peruvian government started a campaign of public sterilization in 1995, the number of procedures has tripled to 110,000 in 1997 alone. The Peruvian newspaper *El Comercio* published a document that reports women were lied to and coerced into the sterilization procedure; and bribed offers of food; and forced sterilization without permission. There have been at least two reported deaths caused by the procedure and many charges of unsanitary conditions of doctors' facilities. Meanwhile, abortion rights are denied to women in Peru except in cases of medical necessity.

Iowa abortion rights victory

In a move that makes abortion more accessible for women, a federal judge ruled the city of Bettendorf, Iowa, unconstitutionally used zoning ordinances as a roadblock to a Planned Parenthood clinic that will provide abortions. On February 12 Judge Charles Wolle struck down the city's second attempt to block the clinic, ruling it had violated the constitutional rights of the clinic and women who would be served there.

Bettendorf is one of four cities on the border of Iowa and Illinois that make up the Quad Cities, with a combined population of 320,000 people. It was the largest metropolitan area in the country without abortion services.

The closest clinic is 50 miles away in Iowa City. Planned Parenthood said they will now open a clinic there. Antichoice forces promised to continue pickets at the proposed clinic in attempts to shut it down.

English-only bill fails in Utah

A Utah bill that would have made English the state's official language failed to move past the house committee February 3. The measure would have prohibited state agencies from conducting government business or printing information in languages other than English. Introduced last year, the proposed law is opposed by several groups representing oppressed nationalities, as well as public-health workers, teachers, and librarians.

Gay rights law overturned

Maine's gay rights law was overturned by referendum February 10 by a vote of 52 percent in favor. Only 30 percent of registered voters turned out. The gay rights legislation, which barred discrimination against gay men and lesbians in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations, was passed last year. There are now only 10 states that have laws barring discrimination against homosexuals.

— MEGAN ARNEY

THE MILITANT

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Editor: NAOMI CRAINE

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

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Indonesia rulers try to prop up rupiah

Continued from front page

300 people chanted "lower the prices" at a February 11 rally outside the Attorney General's office. Food riots have been spreading across the country as well, with demonstrations exploding in at least 15 cities in the past two months.

Some of the protesters have attacked small merchants who are ethnic Chinese, scapegoating them for the economic turmoil engulfing the country. About 3 percent of the 200 million people in Indonesia are of Chinese descent. Tens of thousands of Chinese were among those massacred in 1965 when Gen. Suharto took power under the pretext of putting down a supposed Communist Party coup. Between 500,000 and 1 million people died in the blood bath.

Today, the regime has stepped up its military presence in cities throughout the island nation. Two giant Tactica armored water cannons have been deployed in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city. Surabaya is also known as the "City of Heroes" because of a 1945 rebellion that helped topple the Dutch colonialists who ruled Indonesia for 300 years.

"Surabaya is one of the barometers of Indonesia," a taxi driver told the *New York Times*. "Everyone knows if Surabaya explodes, it all goes."

Anticipating such social unrest, military officials announced 35,000 troops will be deployed in the capital city Jakarta. Cops have deported several hundred men who authorities claim cannot prove their residency or prospects for employment in the city. With political instability escalating, the government organized a mock protest in Jakarta involving 25,000 cops and soldiers during a three-day training session on riot control February 5-7. Hundreds of people have already been arrested, including 140 at the February 11 protest in the capital.

"The political temperature is rising," said Indonesian president Suharto at a military conference February 12. He exhorted his military leaders to "take stern action" against the demonstrations.

Price explosion prompts food crisis

The rupiah has fallen by as much as 80 percent since last summer. With a devalued currency, "Jakarta faces a triple digit price explosion for imported food staples within weeks," the *Wall Street Journal* reported February 9. The price of such basics as sugar, wheat flour, and soybeans could jump 250-500 percent if the government eliminates partial subsidies on these items. Officials of the International Monetary Fund have mandated that the regime abolish the state monopolies that provide the subsidies.

Shortages have already led to the tripling of prices on goods ranging from kerosene to syringes. In the poultry industry, meat and egg production have stopped because companies can't afford to buy imported feed. "In 60 days time, we'll have a scary situation," said a chief executive in the Indonesian food industry. "Things may be available, but they won't be affordable."

The Suharto regime had agreed to end the monopolies as part of the \$43 billion IMF "bailout" scheme imposed last November and renegotiated January 15. The government said it would open the country's markets in sugar, wheat, and soybeans to foreign competition on February 1. But Jakarta has so far balked at eliminating the food subsidies in the face of protest actions across the country.

With the rupiah plummeting in value since last July, many Indonesian companies cannot make payments on \$137.4 billion owed to foreign investors. The regime is floating the idea of establishing a currency board to stabilize the rupiah, halt further devaluations, and salvage the wealth of a layer of Indonesia's rulers.

"We must quickly fix our currencies at a certain rate to allow our industries to calculate [their accounts] precisely," declared Suharto at a February 9 meeting with members of the Indonesian Council of Muslim scholars. The Suharto family, among the wealthiest of Indonesia's capitalists, are the driving force behind the currency board scheme, which would peg the rupiah at around 5,500 to the U.S. dollar — about twice its current exchange rate.

The heads of state in the major imperial-

ist countries and IMF chief Michel Camdessus have voiced opposition to the currency board plan. According to the *New York Times*, U.S. president William Clinton telephoned Suharto February 13 demanding he implement the IMF "reform" program. German chancellor Helmut Kohl and Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto were reportedly expected to make similar moves.

IMF threats over currency board plan

Threatening to cancel the loan agreement if Jakarta sets up a currency board, Camdessus, the IMF fund manager, emphasized that his disapproval represented the U.S. capitalist rulers and other imperialist powers. If a currency board proposal were adopted, "we would not be able to recommend to the IMF Board the continuation of the present program because of the risks to the Indonesian economy," he declared.

A currency board would replace the central bank and establish a fixed exchange rate of the rupiah against the U.S. dollar. All the nation's cash would be convertible into dollars or other hard currency at the fixed exchange rate. The Indonesian government would not be able to set interest rates for loans, which instead would fluctuate with the U.S. dollar.

The country's 12-month interest rates are currently 61 percent. Some economists expect them to rise to triple digits. Under a currency board this would make borrowing nearly impossible, businesses would shut down, and inflation and unemployment would rise, bringing the economy to a halt.

Two of Suharto's children have pressed the Indonesian president to adopt the move. They, like other wealthy capitalists in the country who have debts in dollars and possess large amounts of the Indonesian currency, would benefit greatly from the plan and minimize their financial losses from the instability sweeping the nation. A higher rupiah would help the Suharto family — who have a fortune estimated at \$30 bil-



Protester demanding lower food prices in Indonesia February 9 brandishes rupiahs, the country's currency, which has plummeted 80 percent since last summer.

lion — and their business associates to pay off foreign debts. ¶

Bambang Triahadmodjo, Suharto's son, has been fighting to reopen the bank of Andromeda, where he holds a 25 percent stake. The bank lent him and two other shareholders \$75 million, which they used to pay off some of the \$1.37 billion debt of the Chandra Asri petrochemical plant. Bambang and other business partners own 75 percent of that plant, which was shielded from foreign competition by import tariffs.

Suharto's daughter, Siti Hardijanti Rukmana, enlisted the aid of Steve Hanke, an economist at John Hopkins University, to prepare for the currency board. Hanke is chairman of a currency trading firm that profited handsomely off the collapse of the rupiah and other Asian currencies. He cited currency boards established in Argentina, Estonia, and Bulgaria as models for Indonesia.

The economic crisis engulfing Indonesia and other countries in Asia began with a wave of currency devaluations triggered by the release of the Thai baht from a set relation with the U.S. dollar last July. Semicolonial countries in the region had been touted as "emerging markets," and imperialist investors foisted loans on these countries with the regimes agreeing to guarantee interest payments. In Thailand, the foreign debt grew from \$8.2 billion in 1980 to \$56.7 billion in 1995. In Indonesia, a foreign debt of \$20.9 in 1980 ballooned to \$107.8 billion in 1995. As capitalists in these countries faced diminishing earnings on exports, they were forced to devalue their currencies to cheapen exports, making them more competitive. Revenue from increased exports would help Asian businesses pay off investors.

Washington has engineered major "bail-

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New Zealand gov't sends troops to Gulf

BY TERRY CARSON

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — One hundred people rallied in central Auckland near the U.S. consulate February 13 to protest Washington's plans to bomb Iraq. The protest was called by the Communist League and Young Socialists.

Many of the participants in the protest came from the local Muslim and Mideast communities, including many Iraqis. The South Auckland Muslim Association carried a large banner in Arabic. The president of the association, Gul Zaman, told the rally that Washington "has its own secret agenda — to control the oil wells of the world. The issue of Iraq's weapons is an excuse to get involved." Zaman added, "The U.S. also wants to demonstrate to other countries, if you challenge us, you will be eliminated."

Salman Altaee, who arrived in New Zealand from Iraq a year ago and who helped build the protest action, told the *Militant* that while UN weapons inspectors remain in Iraq, the sanctions won't be lifted. "Will they be there another 5, 10, 20 years?" he asked. "No one knows. Saddam Hussein is not the perfect man, but the big problem for us is the United States."

Other participants in the protest included representatives of peace and church groups, and students from Auckland University. Three young people came to the action after picking up a leaflet from a Communist League literature table the previous week at Waitangi. The events on February 6, which mark the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between the British Crown and Maori tribes in 1840, have become an annual forum for discussion on the fight for Maori national rights.

The day of the protest, it was reported that U.S. president William Clinton had phoned New Zealand prime minister Jennifer Shipley canvassing support for Washington's aggression. The main national television channel, TV1, coupled its report of that story with film of the Auckland protest on its

evening news broadcasts.

Three days later on February 16, following a Cabinet meeting, Shipley announced that the New Zealand government would despatch 20 Special Air Service combat troops to join the U.S.-led military onslaught, along with two surveillance aircraft and 55 air and ground crew.

The February 17 *New Zealand Herald* described the deployment as a "notch up" from the 1991 Gulf War, when the New Zealand government sent two transport aircraft and more than 100 air crew and medics. Since the Gulf War, the New Zealand government has sent a succession of frigates and naval personnel to help police Washington's embargo of Iraq. Thirteen New Zealand personnel work for the UN weapons inspection committee in Iraq.

One problem for the New Zealand rulers is their commitment of armed forces to the island of Bougainville, where New Zealand troops head an imperialist intervention force. Bougainville has been the scene of a nine-year independence struggle and war with Papua New Guinea.

Voices in ruling circles have been urging the government to back Washington's war drive on Iraq. An editorial in the February 10 *New Zealand Herald*, headlined "Time to join the fight," declared, "Should the United States launch an attack on Iraq at any moment, New Zealand should offer support in any way it can. In fact, we should declare support before the event...."

The right-wing party ACT has called on the government to respond quickly and dispatch its new naval frigate, *Te Kaha*, to the Arab-Persian Gulf.

An editorial in the February 13 *National Business Review*, the major national business weekly, called for New Zealand support to be conditional "on the job being done properly." It urged Washington to launch an invasion and occupation by ground forces. "If America will nerve itself to that task, then New Zealand should throw itself into the fray," it said.

Meanwhile, the opposition Labour Party is urging military action against Iraq be organized through the UN Security Council.



BY AGNES SULLIVAN

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — "We are picketing here today to defend Iraqi sovereignty," Annalucia Vermunt declared at a protest of more than 25 people here February 13. "The government that dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has no right or moral authority to bomb Iraq." Vermunt was one of the organizers of the action, which was called by the Communist League and Young Socialists. "Not only did 150,000 Iraqis pay with their lives in the bombing campaign of 1991, but the brutal embargo, which has been policed with the participation of New Zealand naval frigates, has led to the deaths of more than a million people," she added.

An interview with Vermunt was run later that night on local television, along with film of the protest.

One woman on the picket told the *Militant* it was the first time she had participated in a protest. She has family members in Iraq, and did not want a repeat of the indiscriminate bombing unleashed by Washington in 1991. There is no such thing as "surgical strikes," she commented.

Grant Poultny, a young volunteer community worker, said he thought it was important to protest. "The U.S. is not concerned with defending humanity, but defending their own economic interests," he said.

The protest drew a lively and polarized response from the Friday afternoon shopping crowd. A couple of high school students stopping by the picket were interested in finding out more, asking what a demonstration would accomplish and whether the embargo should be lifted. Speakers were generally sympathetically received, including with a few honks from passing motorists. But several individuals attempted to interrupt speakers with abusive shouting.

New political openings spur effort to keep communist arsenal in print

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — As the *Militant* went to press this week, nearly 200 people participated in a meeting at City College of New York (CCNY) on "100 Years of Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism: Africa, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines." It was sponsored by a number of campus and other groups.

In her talk at the meeting, Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the *Bolivian Diary* by Ernesto Che Guevara published by Pathfinder Press, pointed out that the gathering was taking place as Washington is marching working people of the United States and the rest of the world toward a slaughterous war against the people of Iraq. She referred to comments U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright had made the day before that "what we are doing is serving the role of the indispensable nation to see what we can do to make the world safer for our children and grandchildren and for those people around the world who follow the rules."

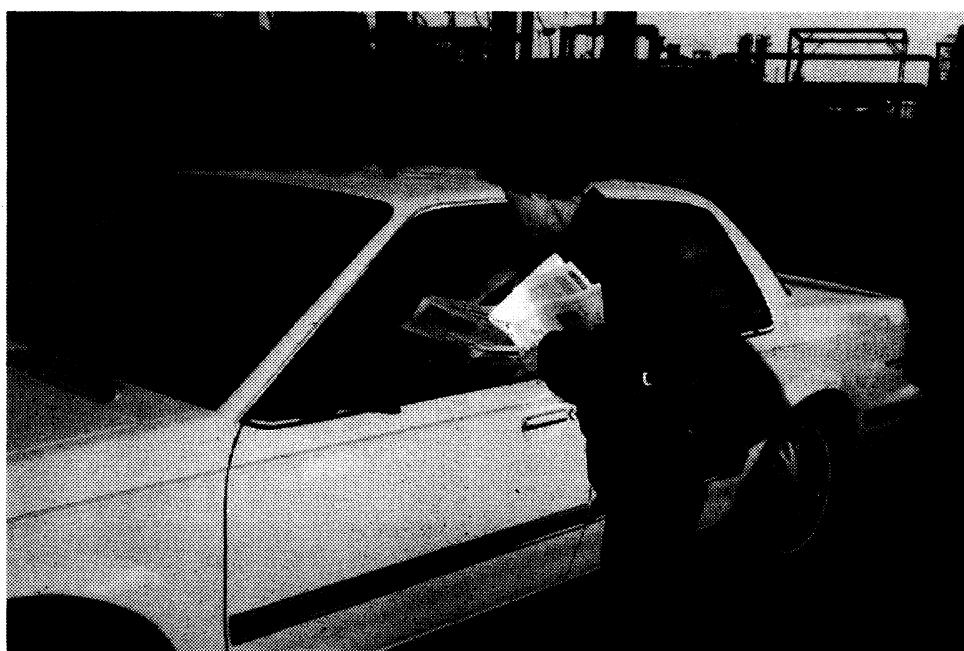
This assault against Iraq, Waters said, will be followed by other imperialist wars, as the dominant capitalist powers will inexorably drag humanity toward another world inter-imperialist slaughter — unless working people stop them by taking power out of the hands of the exploiting classes. The Cuban socialist revolution, she said, clearly points the way forward not only for those fighting for national liberation and for ending imperialist domination, like fighters in Puerto Rico, but for working people inside the United States as well.

The panel of speakers included Félix Wilson, Deputy Ambassador of Cuba's Interests Section in Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda. (An article on the event will appear in the next issue.)

Over the previous few weeks, members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists built this event on the job, at plant gates, on campuses, at picket lines protesting Washington's plans to slaughter the Iraqi people, and at meetings in defense of abortion rights.

Renewed resistance

Based on the political perspectives discussed and adopted at the convention of the Socialist Workers Party and international



Socialist worker campaigns with *Militant* at Chevron oil refinery in Los Angeles.

socialist conference in June 1997, members and supporters of the SWP, Young Socialists, and communist leagues in other countries recognized new openings to win a hearing for revolutionary ideas among workers and youth.

These perspectives and the tasks that flowed from them for disciplined communist organizations were confirmed and concretized in the course of a round of four regional socialist conferences held across North America — in Chicago, Birmingham, Toronto, and Seattle — between October 1997 and the end of January of this year. The featured speakers at each of these gatherings were Waters and SWP national secretary Jack Barnes.

One indication of the expanding opportunities for communists worldwide, discussed in the talks by Waters at the four gatherings, is the political strengthening of Cuba's socialist revolution over the past couple of years, as the worst of the economic and political crisis precipitated by the sudden collapse of trade relations with the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has passed. Discussions with workers, military personnel, and youth around the Pathfinder Press stall during the

recently concluded Eighth International Book Fair in Havana (see front-page article) is an example of what has opened up, as the battle for beans and potatoes has eased in Cuba.

A second factor is the evidence that the political retreat of the working class and labor movement in North America, Western Europe, and most other imperialist centers has bottomed out. The bosses and their governments don't find it as easy today as five or ten years ago simply to beat back working-class resistance by stretching out strikes or lockouts and passing legislation to push back the social wage and union rights won by labor and its allies.

Barnes called attention to this shift in his June convention report, pointing to the example of the electoral defeats of the incum-

bent bourgeois conservative regimes in the United Kingdom and France by, respectively, the class-collaborationist Labour Party and Socialist Party/Communist Party coalition. The outcome of the hard-fought United Parcel Workers strike in the United States in August and early September provided further confirmation. The talks by Barnes and discussion from the floor at the subsequent conferences followed the evolution of these and other developments in the class struggle from the San Francisco Bay Area to events in Germany, Sweden, New Zealand, and elsewhere.

A third, related indication is the modest increase in the recruitment of youth to the communist movement and, above all, the evidence that a layer of them are taking on more and more leadership responsibility. Young fighters are shouldering leadership of the trade union work of the communist movement, in the print shop, and in political collaboration with fellow revolutionists around the world.

These developments, in turn, have put the SWP and Young Socialists on a footing to respond to Washington's accelerated war moves against Iraq.

Members, supporters respond

To respond to these growing political opportunities and challenges, SWP and YS members in industrial unions are holding a round of national meetings to discuss how to campaign more effectively among their co-workers and other unionists. Socialist workers in the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), for example, are meeting in Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis respectively February 21-22.

Coming out of the round of regional conferences, party branches are beginning to discuss how to expand and regularize sales

Continued on Page 12

5 steps to prepare a Pathfinder book

The following are excerpts from a letter by Ruth Cheney, the organizer of the San Francisco steering committee of the volunteer international effort to scan, proofread, and format Pathfinder books to those who have initially signed up for the project.

February 16, 1998

Dear Volunteers:

There is a broad range of ways you can participate in this project, depending on your interest, the computer equipment at your disposal, and whether you are working as one individual or with a group of volunteers in your area.

As of today, the digitization process can be broken into five major steps:

1. Scanning books, optical character recognition (OCR), and checking recognition
2. Massaging
3. Proofreading (cross-reading)
4. Formatting
5. Final Read

Let's take a look at each of these steps:

1. Scanning, OCR, and check recognition is the process of turning a raw book into digital form. A scanner looks like a small photocopying machine and works in the same manner, except that the picture of the page is in a computer. OCR is a software program that looks at the picture, realizes it is really text, and proceeds to change this picture into electronic text. Since this process is not 100 percent accurate, the software has an additional program (check recognition — also called proofing) that you manually use to make many of the corrections....

You need a scanner, an OCR program (and we strongly recommend OmniPage Pro v. 8 for the PC for the sake of consistency), and a book with the binder cut off professionally, so it is square and flat....

2. Massaging is the process by which a scanned book, now in digital form, is put into an easy-to-read format for the proofreaders to check. Massaging corrects perhaps 95 percent of the errors introduced by the OCR process. These corrections are made with only a minimal look at the original book.

You need a word processing program,

preferably Word 7 for the PC since it is programmatically linked to OmniPage Pro v. 8, and the book....

3. Cross-reading is comparing, word for word, line by line, each original book page with a simply formatted, easy-to-read manuscript. The human eye is still the best mechanism for finding errors. Cross-reading involves reading **word for word, letter by letter**, periods, commas, italics, capital letters, colons, semi-colons, etc., and noting any discrepancies between the book and the computer-created manuscript. It is not easy and requires **concentration and discipline**.

Each page of the book has to be cross-read twice — the second time by a different person than the one who first read it. Second readers should explain the errors missed by the first readers and note for them any patterns. Errors found in the manuscript are each numbered and reported on a chart that should be produced for each book, listing the proofreader's name, whether it was the first or the second read, and how many errors were found. This is the only way we know of to find out who is really good at proofreading, as well as who is able to learn to become excellent at cross-reading.

Proofreading is for now the heart of this project because if we do it right we prove ourselves capable of producing top quality books....

4. Formatting is the process of taking the corrected manuscript and turning it back into the form of a book. Using guidelines and templates developed by Pathfinder, you will make the book as attractive and easy to read as any book on the market today — and usually better. In the immediate period ahead, **we will do this step only in San Francisco** because we are still learning it ourselves and therefore cannot either help or monitor the work of others. **You need** Microsoft Word, Version 6, for the PC for this step as well as a Post Script printer.

5. The "final read" has as yet to be defined. One thing is probable: All final reads will be done in San Francisco — until we have more experience.

Again — **Welcome** to a world-wide team. Be assured that the book you will work on will hit the streets soon!

NEXT WEEK: Capital Fund to help revolutionize book production

Next week's *Militant* will launch a capital fund to acquire up-to-date computer-to-plate printing equipment to help revolutionize production of Pathfinder books.

The new machinery will make it possible to bypass labor-intensive production processes by going direct from electronic files of finished manuscripts to metal or polymer plates, drastically cutting labor time. By doing so, Pathfinder will be able to produce books in short runs and keep in print the revolutionary books that workers and youth need in order to fight effectively.

Print shop workers are making the rounds in the Northeast to view the advanced printing equipment that is available to make this transformation possible.

"We visited one smaller shop in Delaware that uses a computer-to-plate machine that we are interested in acquiring for our print shop," said Chris Hoepfner, who directs the print shop that produces Pathfinder books. "The owner of that plant told us that the volume of production in his shop has doubled since bringing in a Gerber computer-to-plate machine. At the same time the shop went from eight to six workers. And it operates on a five-day workweek. Earlier, we had asked the owner of one of these shops if we could tour his plant on a Saturday," Hoepfner remarked. "But he told us that they no longer work on Saturdays!"

"That alone would justify the capital investment to transform our shop!" said Bernie Senter, who works in Pathfinder's

current prepress department.

Leah Finger, one of the sheet-fed press operators in Pathfinder's print shop, also visited the Delaware shop. What impressed her was how few plate remakes are needed with this new technology. "The owner told us they have about one plate remake a week," Finger said. "A big difference from what we face."

With computer-to-plate technology, the time-consuming steps needed to develop film, strip the film to the dimensions of printing plates, and manually burn the plates are eliminated, cutting down significantly on labor time and minimizing the chance for error.

Supporters of the communist movement will be asked to contribute generously to the special Capital Fund to purchase the computer-to-plate machinery and related software and equipment.

Socialist workers who are members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) are already planning to kick off the fundraising effort by pooling "Christmas bonuses" and profit-sharing checks to make a large donation to the fund. This campaign will be discussed further at the national meeting of the fraction of socialist workers in the UAW, which will take place in Chicago at the end of February, said John Sarge, a UAW member in Detroit.

Socialist workers in the International Association of Machinists and the United Steelworkers of America are also holding national meetings February 21-22 and will be discussing how to contribute to this fund as well. — A.M.

Miners, Boeing workers buy the 'Militant'

Below are sent in from supporters of the socialist press describing their efforts to campaign against imperialism and war with the *Militant*; its Spanish-language sister *Perspectiva Mundial*; issue no. 7 of the Marxist magazine *New International*, featuring "The Opening Guns of World War III"; the new pamphlet *Celebrating the Homecoming of Ernesto Che Guevara's Reinforcement Brigade to Cuba*; and other socialist literature. Please keep sending in sales stories — including photos!

RED JACKET, West Virginia — "I'm opposed to the United States going to war with Iraq. Three of my friends from high school were killed in the Gulf War. Its senseless killing," 23-year-old Darlene Rowe told a team of four socialist workers from Birmingham, Alabama, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who

The plant gate sale is a collaborative effort of members of both the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists chapter in Seattle. We also distribute leaflets advertising the *Militant* Labor forums held in Seattle each week.

One woman worker who stopped to buy a paper said her daughter was in the armed forces in the Persian Gulf and she was concerned about her. That same day a Black worker wearing an "Operation Desert Storm" hat, stopped to talk. He had been in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He thought Saddam had to "be taken out." The next week he stopped again to talk.

Recently, a Boeing worker stopped when she realized that this paper was against the war drive, and came back to buy one. On another day, an Asian worker already had his money out to buy the *Militant* as he walked across the street to the spot where we stand.

Autumn Knowlton
and Scott Breen



Militant/Angel Lariscy

Sales at picket line in Miami against Washington's bombing of Iraq.

were selling the *Militant* door-to-door in the coal mining communities of southern West Virginia. Over three days the sales team sold 25 copies of the *Militant* newspaper, two subscriptions, and one copy of the booklet *Celebrating the Homecoming of Ernesto Che Guevara's Reinforcement Brigade*.

Coal miners at seven different mine portals bought 13 single issues of the socialist paper. We sold at least one *Militant* at every portal we went to. During the shift change at the Norfolk-Southern rail yard in Williamson the team sold five papers to rail workers. The team also visited the Matewan Historical Museum and talked to the director about stocking Pathfinder titles. The Museum, which commemorates the struggles of coal miners in Mingo county, carries a lot of labor titles and the director agreed to place an order for five copies of *Mother Jones Speaks* and possibly other titles in the future.

Mark Gilsdorf

SEATTLE — On February 14 supporters of the *Militant* went to Fort Lewis Army Base south of Tacoma, Washington, to sell the paper and campaign against U.S. war moves in Iraq. One soldier expressed opposition to the war the U.S. government is about to wage against the Iraqi people, as well as interest in the *Militant's* coverage on the occupation of Northern Ireland by British imperialism. The team sold seven copies of the *Militant* to soldiers stationed at the base.

Volunteer distributors have been regularly — and consistently — selling the *Militant* at the Boeing factory in Renton every Thursday during the afternoon shift change for the last 12 weeks. At least one newspaper each week, and as many as four *Militants* are sold at a time.

MIAMI — Sales at the CSX rail yard here continue at a brisk pace. This past week a co-worker bought a copy of the *New International* with the article "The Opening Guns of World War III" in Spanish. Two others bought copies of the *Militant* this week. One was a veteran of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. He was very interested in the picket lines and protests that have occurred already before the war has started. The other person who got the *Militant* wanted to go to our regular weekly picket line protesting U.S. involvement in Iraq but couldn't make it last week due to work. When he found out that the cops came and tried to shut down the picket line, he wanted to be there this week to defend our right to protest Washington's drive to war.

At a rally for immigrant rights on February 9, *Militant* supporters sold 16 single issues of the socialist newsweekly and two copies of *New International* no. 7 in French, as well as several other Pathfinder titles.

Kay Sedam

ATLANTA — We have launched a campaign of James Harris for Governor of Georgia and already put out a statement on Washington's drive toward war against Iraq at two protests.

We found out February 16 that Ward Connerly, the man who introduced the anti-affirmative action measure Prop. 209 in California, was to speak at Emory University. We immediately joined with others to protest and held a lively picket in front of Emory, marching to the meeting and entering the hall chanting, "Fight Discrimination, Defend Affirmative Action." There were about 60 people who attended the protest. Supporters of the *Militant* sold 10 papers and built a planning meeting for February 19 to forge a coalition against the war drive, as well as building a meeting for Cuban Interests Section representative Johana Tablada on February 24.

Abby Tilsner

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Two socialist workers from Auckland joined *Militant* supporters in the capital city of Wellington February 17 to sell 16 copies of the paper at a 1,200-strong antigovernment protest, which was called by unions in the city to coincide with the opening of parliament. A team of socialist campaigners also got a good response when they set up sales tables in the northern town of Waitangi on Waitangi Day, February 6. The day has become a focus of protest and discus-

Campaigning against imperialism and war

February 1 – March 1 ♦ Target percentage for second week = 50%

	Militant		NI 7		Dual %	PM		Che	
	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
AUSTRALIA	120	69	5	0	29%	6	3	20	8
CANADA									
Toronto	360	168	15	8	50%	8	2	40	6
Vancouver	200	106	12	4	43%	8	3	20	6
Montreal	140	41	20	4	25%	16	4	20	6
Canada total	700	315	47	16	40%	32	9	80	18
ICELAND	20	15	2	0	38%			4	1
NEW ZEALAND									
Christchurch	45	32	3	3	86%			12	4
Auckland	100	61	5	1	41%	1		20	5
NZ total	145	93	8	4	57%			32	9
SWEDEN	92	33	8	2	30%	10		8	5
UNITED KINGDOM									
London	180	128	25	7	50%			40	12
Manchester	160	42	10	4	33%			20	12
UK total	340	170	35	11	41%			60	24
UNITED STATES									
Birmingham, AL	140	81	10	6	59%	15	2	8	4
Boston	220	150	25	12	58%		5	25	6
Des Moines	200	111	12	6	53%	20	9	17	3
New York	500	266	50	21	48%	40	34	100	14
Miami	200	90	25	12	47%	30	6	30	8
Twin Cities, MN	220	112	20	8	45%	20	6	30	8
Washington, DC	140	100	10	1	41%	12	2	20	6
Los Angeles	345	127	25	11	40%	20	18	30	9
Atlanta	240	120	20	5	38%	20	9	30	6
San Francisco	240	88	20	7	36%	30	2	40	12
Detroit	140	85	10	1	35%	5	2	25	8
Philadelphia	200	77	10	3	34%	10	2	25	3
Chicago	400	204	25	4	34%	40	19	50	11
Houston	140	68	15	2	31%	20	3	15	4
Cleveland	160	75	8	1	30%	8	4	20	8
Pittsburgh	120	50	13	2	29%	3	0	10	3
Newark, NJ	320	138	40	5	28%	80	8	30	6
Seattle	150	63	15	2	28%	5		25	2
U.S. total	4075	2005	353	109	40%	378	131	530	121
In the Unions									
AUSTRALIA									
AMWU	24	5	3		10%			4	
CANADA									
USWA	44	26	12	6	55%	6	1	8	
IAM	36	17	5	1	34%			3	
CAW	8	1	1	0	6%			1	
UNITE	8		1		0%			1	
Canada total	96	44	19	7	41%	6	1	13	0
NEW ZEALAND									
MWU	10	7	1	0	35%			2	1
EU	20	8	2	0	20%			2	0
SFWU	4	1			13%				
NZ total	34	16	3	0	24%			4	1
UNITED KINGDOM									
TGWU	28	13	5	1	33%			5	1
AEEU	20	9	4	0	23%			4	
RMT	16	3	3	0	9%			4	
UK total	64	25	12	1	24%			13	1
UNITED STATES									
UAW	200	62	10	5	41%		2	20	8
UFCW	28	10	7	3	39%	12	10	6	2
OCAW	88	23	14	7	38%			16	2
UNITE	30	19	12	1	36%	20	8	16	6
UTU*	200	42	40	14	28%			20	2
IAM	160	38	35	9	25%	20	2	40	4
USWA	175	45	40	4	18%	15	2	25	0
U.S. total	881	239	158	43	27%	67	24	143	24

* combined Militant and PM goal

Cities are ranked by the percentage of *Militants* and *New Internationals* sold

AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU — Amalgamated Manufacturers Union; CAW — Canadian Autoworkers Union; EU — Engineers Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; UNITE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

sion in support of Maori rights. Twenty-two copies of the *Militant* were sold, as well as a copy of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin's *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

At demonstrations in Auckland and Christchurch February 13 to protest Washington's plans to bomb Iraq, 15 copies of the *Militant* and a copy of NI no. 7 were sold. A young worker who had helped to build the protest in Christchurch came to a Militant Labor Forum later that night and decided to buy a copy of NI no. 7 and of the book *Socialism on Trial*.

Socialist workers have been stepping up sales

on the job in response to Washington's impending war, selling 16 copies of the paper nationally to co-workers in the first two weeks of the campaign and a copy of *Celebrating the Homecoming of Ernesto Che Guevara's Reinforcement Brigade to Cuba*.

A young woman at a food processing plant in Auckland, who had a subscription to the *Militant* last year, decided to buy a single copy to find out about the U.S. war moves against Iraq. After reading it, she asked to renew her subscription.

Michael Tucker

40,000 visit Havana international

Continued from front page

litical event in the Cuban capital, is organized every two years at Pabexpo — a large, modern exhibition center on the western edge of the city, a few miles from downtown. It draws daily crowds of students, workers, soldiers, teachers, and many others who want to see, discuss, and buy new books by publishers from Cuba and around the world.

The main book fair exhibit was made up of thousands of titles displayed by participating publishing houses. Another 800 titles — totaling 300,000 books — were on sale in pesos, the national currency of Cuba, reported Omar González, president of the Cuban Book Institute, at the formal opening February 4. González was flanked at the ceremony by a number of Cuban leaders and other prominent figures, including National Assembly president Ricardo Alarcón; Minister of Culture Abel Prieto; José Ramón Balaguer, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; Fernando Rojas, president of Hermanos Saiz, the association of young artists and writers; and filmmaker Alfredo Guevara. Rafael Tovar y de Teresa, president of Mexico's National Council on Culture and the Arts, also spoke, extending greetings. Mexico, with 30 publishers represented at the fair, was guest of honor this year.

Seventy-five publishing houses and other institutions from Cuba displayed a wide range of books and magazines, a product of government-encouraged efforts to publish more new titles, even if in smaller runs, on a broad spectrum of topics.

Steps forward in publishing

In magazines alone, René Soto of Ediciones Cubanas, one of the country's largest distributors, told the *Militant*, the number of titles in circulation has risen from 210 in 1994 to 340 today, an increase of more than 60 percent.

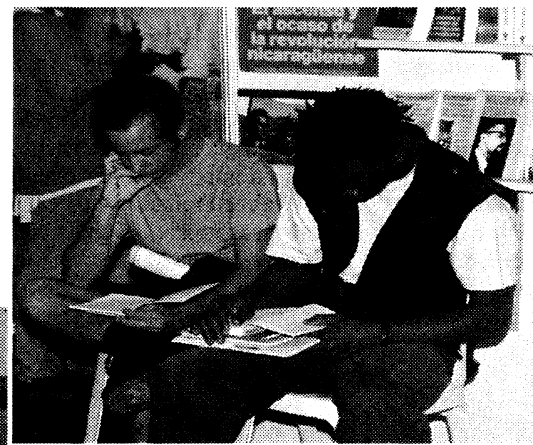
A number of these new titles, Soto explained, are magazines sold for dollars in the hard currency market as well as in pesos to Cubans; income from the dollar sales helps finance broader circulation of the titles in Cuba. New titles also include such periodicals as the cultural magazine *El Caimán Barbudo* (The bearded alligator), published by Editora Abril, the publishing house of Union of Young Communists. The magazine was relaunched in 1996 after a nearly five-year absence.

El Caimán Barbudo, like many other magazines in Cuba, had ceased publication in the early 1990s during the worst years of the Special Period — the term Cubans use to describe the severe economic hardships that followed from the abrupt loss of almost all the island's foreign trade, compounded by a tightened U.S. embargo. Prior to 1989, 85 percent of Cuba's foreign trade had been with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, much of it on terms favorable to Cuba.

With little hard currency available to purchase imported paper and ink, Cuban book, magazine, and newspaper publishing has been drastically cut back. As new trade

agreements have been established, although at qualitatively higher prices, and as Cubans advance in the fight to boost production through increasing efficiency, a modest renewal has taken place in publishing as well as in other areas of the economy. *El Caimán Barbudo*, for example, is now printed in a bimonthly edition of 20,000 — far short of what is needed to satisfy the demand but a

Many lined up each day to get a copy of this collection of interviews in which 41 ranking officers of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces



Militant/Joshua Carroll

The Pathfinder stand, organized by Pathfinder Distribution in London, was staffed by an international team of volunteers from, Canada, New Zealand, Quebec, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. They explained the contents of books and discussed world politics with a non-stop stream of visitors all week. Many of the visitors to the booth were returning

to continue discussions they had begun with Pathfinder volunteers at previous book fairs going all the way back to the second one in 1986. Others were attracted by large colorful displays of books by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X, James P. Cannon, and other revolutionary leaders published by Pathfinder.

Omar Herrera, a 41-year-old worker at an electrical plant in Havana and also a writer and poet, visited the Pathfinder stand many times over the course of the fair. He remarked that "when you visit other stands, you find many books, and you can read them and they are very nice, but when you come to this stand you have a political discussion." Herrera said that this made the Pathfinder stand his favorite of the fair.

A number of visitors stopped to discuss a large display panel, mounted outside the Pathfinder booth, depicting with a series of photographs the way many Pathfinder books are sold around the world — from folding tables on street corners, at universities and high schools, and at factory plant gates. Prior to the fair, at an international conference sponsored by Editora Abril, Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters had explained that the continuity of Pathfinder goes back to the birth of the world communist movement in the Russian revolution of 1917, and explained how Pathfinder titles have always been sold hand-to-hand, from worker-to-worker. Many who had heard a few of her remarks on the radio or seen coverage of the conference on the television news stopped by to find out more. Some had experiences of their own to exchange.

Plant gate sales in Camagüey

This included Antonio Abreu, director of book distribution for the province of Camagüey in central Cuba, who studied the display and remarked on the similarities between his work and that of the Pathfinder volunteers. Abreu said that while "most of the larger workplaces in Camagüey have their own bookstores," this is not true of all of them and certainly not of the smaller ones. It is also not true of the many sugarcane fields in the province. To encourage reading at the plants and work sites, "we bring the books to the workplace entrance, on a more or less monthly schedule."

"We use a table, a bench, whatever is at hand to display the books," he said. "We get books to workers the same way you do."

Abreu also explained that it is government policy to encourage reading on the job, including by workers who are assigned to read aloud for the benefit of all when work conditions permit. Reading aloud in this way has long been a tradition of workers in the tobacco industry, for example.

One of the most popular titles at the Pathfinder booth was *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X speaks). Many Cubans, both white and Black, mentioned that they knew about or had read at one time a long out-of-print Cuban edition of *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, but most had never had a chance to read any other works of this outstanding revolutionary leader. Some rectified this on the spot by joining the "Pathfinder Readers Club" — a number of chairs set aside in the booth where visitors were encouraged to take as long as they wished to sit and read Pathfinder titles they found of interest.

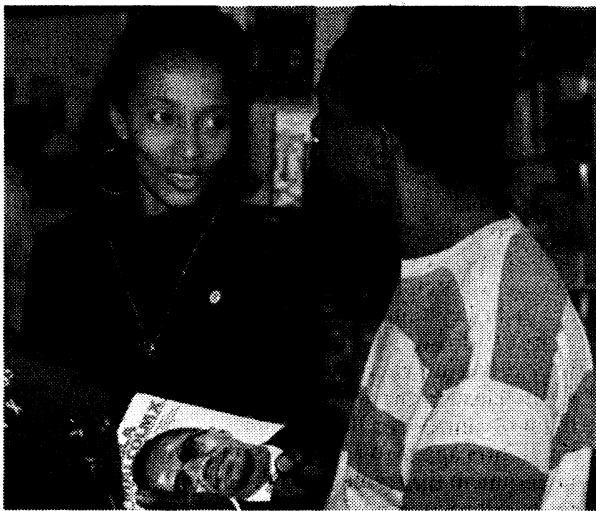
War preparations against Iraq

Another title that drew wide discussions was the issue of *Nueva Internacional* carrying a Spanish translation of "Opening Guns of World War III: U.S. Assault on Iraq." This increased as the week passed and more news



Militant/Joshua Carroll

Top, two members of the Pathfinder Readers Club in Cuba. Over past 10 years, dozens of young people have spent hours reading at Pathfinder booths. Above, the Pathfinder booth was one of the most crowded at February 4 - 10 fair. At left, two young Cubans discuss politics at Pathfinder stand.



Militant/Francisco Picado

measurable improvement

The fair itself, as Cuban president Fidel Castro pointed out during a visit the last day, represents an "extraordinary effort in the midst of such great economic difficulties."

Publishers from some two dozen countries took part, with the largest representation coming from Mexico. For those fairgoers who had access to dollars — a small but growing layer in the Cuban capital today — hundreds of titles from abroad were available for purchase. These included some of the latest works on art, science, medicine, computers, and literature.

Cuban books were available in pesos in two different pavilions. One, devoted to children's literature and usually crowded with young people, had colorful displays of books as well as a number of scientific and educational exhibits. At both pavilions eager buyers at times stood in line for up to two hours or more awaiting entry.

'Secretos de generales' a big seller

Among the Cuban titles, one of the best sellers over the course of the fair was *Secretos de generales* (Secrets of generals).

Castro: 'Cuba is not begging for charity'

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

"Cuba is not begging for charity," Cuban president Fidel Castro stated February 2. "Cuba does not ask for humanitarian aid. Cuba asks for the end of the blockade."

Castro, speaking on Cuban television, denounced a proposal endorsed by U.S. senator Jesse Helms to offer "humanitarian relief" to Cuba under onerous conditions while maintaining the U.S. economic embargo against that Latin American nation.

The proposal, called "Bill to Provide Assistance and Aid to Cuba," was initiated by the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), a right-wing group of businessmen long headed by Jorge Mas Canosa, who died last November. Helms has not yet introduced it in the Senate.

The plan calls for offering to send up to \$100 million in food and medicine to Cuba through the Catholic Church hierarchy, American Red Cross, and other so-called nongovernmental organizations. It calls for

the U.S. Congress being allowed to "monitor" the delivery of the aid in Cuba, preventing its distribution through state-run stores and channels.

In a January 29 statement Helms said the bill would "keep firmly in place" the almost four-decade-long economic embargo on Cuba. Helms and Sen. Daniel Burton are co-sponsors of the embargo-tightening Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, also known as the Helms-Burton law, which U.S. president William Clinton signed into law in 1996.

Meanwhile, Rep. Esteban Torres and Sen. Christopher Dodd have sponsored bills in the respective houses of Congress that would allow the sale of food and medicine. Helms opposes that measure. Liberal Democrat Dodd, however, voiced approval of the Helms-CANF proposal because it supposedly acknowledges that Cuba should get U.S. "aid." On the other hand, the three congresspeople who are Cuban-Ameri-

can — Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, and Robert Menendez — opposed the Helms proposal, saying it might invite criticism of the U.S. embargo on Cuba. Speaking February 3, U.S. State Department spokesman James Foley commented favorably on the Helms plan and slandered the Cuban government.

In his February 2 televised interview, Cuban president Castro declared that Cuba would not accept "aid" from the U.S. government. "That would be like asking this country to get on its knees and lick the hand of those who are stabbing it with a knife. There could be nothing more cynically repugnant."

The Cuban leader also used his remarks to congratulate the Cuban people for their dignified, disciplined, and revolutionary response to the Pope's visit.

This conduct proved, Castro said, that "the people of Cuba have never failed the revolution."

book fair

appeared on Cuban radio and television about U.S. preparations for war against the people of Iraq. The article explains the imperialist character of the 1991 U.S.-led war against Iraq and tells about the kind of action that is necessary if the working class is to take power and prevent the next inter-imperialist slaughter — toward which the world capitalist system is inexorably marching.

Sal, the leader of a group of students from Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony now occupied by Morocco and Mauritania, brought four of his friends to the booth on two different occasions to see "the Iraq book," as he called that issue of *Nueva Internacional*. He had heard about this issue of the magazine prior to the fair and was one of several who wanted to know how they could get a copy to study.

Many visitors were surprised to learn that the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, containing speeches by Cuban leaders Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón, had sold more than 11,500 copies during the 1990-91 war buildup and fighting. They were impressed that it was still available and was being reprinted as the U.S. government was again preparing for war against Iraq.

The pamphlet *Peru's Shining Path: Evolution of a Stalinist Sect* also elicited much interest. This included two people who came by at different times during the course of the fair to explain they had already read the pamphlet and that it had helped them understand the reactionary role played by that anti-working-class political group.

Other books that drew attention from a number of visitors were the new release *John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s*; *Nueva Internacional* no. 3 on the rise and fall of the Nicaraguan revolution; titles in Russian and Spanish by Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky, and women's liberation titles by Socialist Workers Party leader Evelyn Reed. One of the most frequently requested titles was the Spanish-language edition of *Lenin's Final Fight*, a book that documents the political battle Lenin waged in the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1922-23 to maintain the course that had enabled workers and farmers to take power and carry out the first successful socialist revolution in history.

Book donations appreciated

Representatives of a number of libraries and other institutions to which Pathfinder has made book donations in the past came by to explain how much these books were appreciated by the readers their libraries served, and on occasion, to introduce a colleague from another library.

A representative of the José Martí National Library, which has in its collection almost every Pathfinder title, explained that duplicates had been sent to provincial libraries. The national library has placed Pathfinder titles in a special reference section containing books that are not allowed to leave the building. Librarian Isora Rodríguez explained that too many of the Pathfinder books simply never came back when they were allowed out on loan.

Every year Pathfinder supporters donate books remaining after the book fair to different institutions in Cuba, including libraries, schools, and unions. This year the books were donated to the Union of Young Communists as an initial contribution toward the library for the national cadre school the UJC plans to relaunch in September of this year.

Over the past several Havana book fairs, Pathfinder has grown in recognition and popularity. A number of Cubans have visited the Pathfinder stall many times over the years. Roberto Santana, a 25-year-old researcher at an artificial intelligence institute, for example, has been to every fair since 1990, and he has always spent a big portion of his time reading Pathfinder titles. He was very happy to find out that he can now get the *Militant* on the internet. Irina Valiente, a 21-year-old medical student at the University of Havana and president of the Federation of University Students at her school, explained: "I came looking for this stall because I met Pathfinder at the last book fair. These books are about the revolutionary movement in the world."

Mario Castillo, a 23-year-old history student at the University of Havana, was one of those who came up to the stall to ask,

"where is the book on the 'Opening Guns of World War III'?"

Castillo also asked what had happened in the cases of Mark Curtis and Geronimo Pratt — two political fighters who had been framed up by the cops and put in jail for their opposition to the racism and oppression that capitalism breeds. He had heard that they had won victories against their jailers. Pathfinder volunteers were able to confirm for Castillo that both Pratt and Curtis had been released from prison.

Castillo had visited the Pathfinder



booth at the previous book fair. He has already read *Nueva Internacional* no. 2 on Che Guevara and the transition to socialism, *Nueva Internacional* no. 3 on the rise and decline of the Nicaraguan revolution, *Nueva Internacional* no. 4, which contains the Spanish translation of "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War," and *In Defense of Marxism* by Leon Trotsky. He got these books from members of the Young Socialists he met at the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange held in Cuba in the summer of 1996. Castillo explained that "seeing that there are people in the U.S. who fight against imperialism gives us energy here in Cuba."

Salmon, a 22-year-old medical student from Iran, also knew Pathfinder from the previous fair. He was interested to know what Pathfinder volunteers thought about the recent electoral victory of Mohammed Khatami in Iran. He thought it "reflected a part of the Iranian revolution" that has not been crushed.

After spending more than an hour discussing world politics with the Pathfinder volunteers, Rafael Iglesias, a longtime communist who teaches mathematics at the Batalla de Ayacucho middle level school in Güina de Melena, some 13 miles southwest of Havana, invited them to come to his school.

"A couple of hours with you will be better for the students than 20 philosophy courses," he said, as he held a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. After the fair, a team of Pathfinder supporters took the opportunity visit the school and meet students there (see coverage of this visit in an article next week).

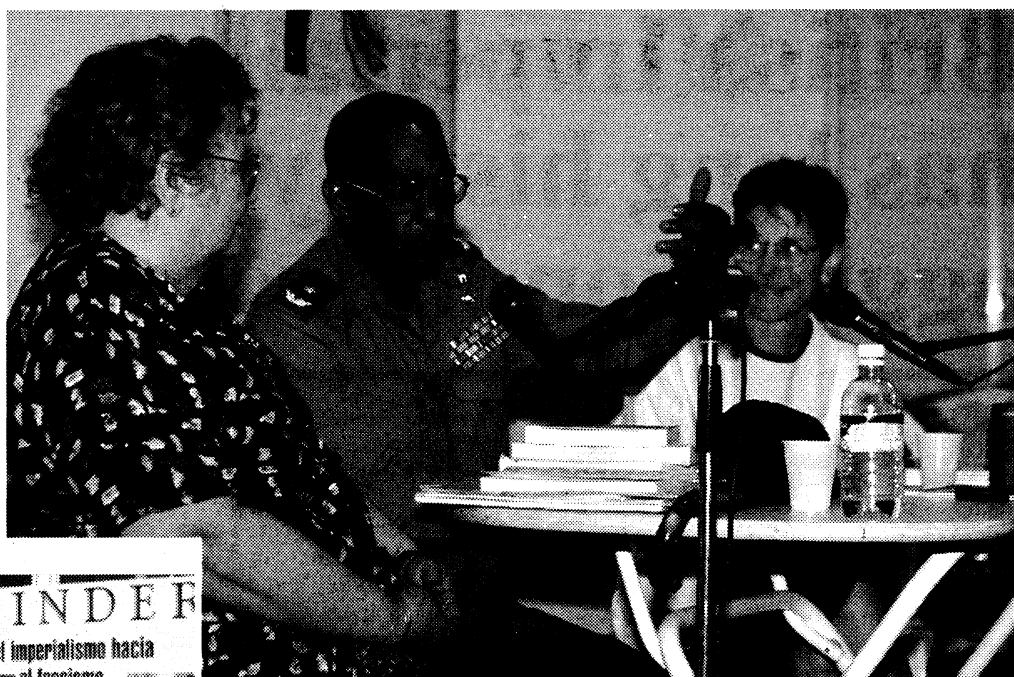
Discussion on Pope's visit

Many visitors wanted to talk about the recent visit to Cuba by Pope John Paul II. The big majority interviewed by *Militant* reporters expressed the opinion that the visit by the Pope was a victory for the Cuban revolution. Many pointed out that during his visit, the Pope spoke publicly against the U.S. embargo of Cuba. They explained that Cuba welcomed the Pope without bending in any way on its principles.

"We welcomed the Pope to Cuba, we listened to his words, and we were respectful of him," explained Leonardo Echevarría, a 31-year-old worker at the Havana Libre Hotel. "But," Echevarría continued, "we know he is against the revolution."

Echevarría, along with many others, noted that during his visit the Pope had spoken against a number of the conquests of the revolution, particularly the right to abortion. Irina Valiente commented on this. "Abortion is a woman's right," she said, "since the revolution took power, it has been an option. We cannot imagine life without it being available."

While many Cubans noted the Pope's positions against important victories of the Cuban revolution, most did not seem to think the visit had succeeded in weakening it, as the imperialist rulers around the world had



Militant photos/Maria Isabel LeBlanc
Above, Iraidia Aguirrechu of Editora Política, Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas (Pombo), and Mary-Alice Waters of Pathfinder at launch of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'guerrilla'*. Inset, Antonio Abreu, director of book distribution in Camagüey, Cuba.

predicted and hoped.

Isabel, a 24-year-old geography student, said, "the Pope's visit was very political. He spoke against abortion, as he had in Poland and Brazil. But here it is impossible to go backward — not only because the government does not want to go backward, but because of us, the women."

Many Cubans talked not only about the Pope's political positions, but more generally about the role of the Catholic Church hierarchy. "I'm not a Catholic and I don't like the Church because I know what they did in the beginning of the revolution," said Mario Pedrosa, an electrical engineer. He was referring to the fact that Catholic Church leaders in Cuba had been among the main organizers of the attempted counter-revolution against the workers and farmers government that came to power in 1959 after overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

"Maybe he won some people to the Church," Pedrosa continued, "but that doesn't bother me. People go to the church seeking advice or looking for something, but they are not against the revolution. I'm not worried if people go to the church; it cannot weaken the revolution — not now." Pedrosa pointed out that after the Pope said mass in the Plaza of the Revolution, "he went down from his podium and thanked Fidel in front of all the TV cameras and all the press."

A small number of people interviewed by the *Militant* expressed a different opinion. They thought that while the Pope's visit was a victory for the revolution, there were negative aspects as well. Roberto Santana said that coming out of the Pope's tour, "people in Cuba who are believers have more confidence and more space to practice their faith, and this is good."

"But," he continued, "there are also people who seek to use the church against the revolution, and space is opened up for them as well." One longtime Cuban journalist who participated in the revolutionary struggle against the Batista dictatorship told *Militant* reporters that seeing the several-story-high portrait of Jesus Christ hanging in the Plaza of the Revolution was particularly hard to swallow.

Many Cubans also wanted to discuss a provocation against the revolution that had come from the archbishop of Santiago, Pedro Meurice Estiu, during the pontiff's visit to that province. In his remarks prior to the Pope's mass, the archbishop pointed to the 1950s as the "golden era" of the Catholic Church in Cuba. But this was a time Cuba was still ruled by the hated Batista dictatorship, which thousands of Cubans died fighting. In response to this hundreds streamed out of the plaza, refusing to participate any further.

Debate, discussion at book launchings

Throughout the course of the fair, dozens
Continued on Page 12

HELP FUND 'MILITANT' REPORTING TRIPS TO CUBA, CAIRO



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Reporting team visits agricultural market Cuatro Caminos in Havana, 1994.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* travel fund helps cover the expenses of the reporting team at the Havana Book Fair. The fund will also finance a trip by correspondents to a meeting next month in Cairo, Egypt, which will assess the World Festival of Youth and Students that took place in Cuba last year and discuss building an anti-imperialist international youth movement.

More than \$5,000 has been collected toward \$13,000 pledged at a regional socialist conference held January 24-25 in Seattle. We encourage our readers to send in contributions, and urge those who made pledges to send payment right away. To help make these trips possible send your check to: The *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

British imperialism has long history of aggression in Iraq

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — In seeking to justify the war preparations of Washington and London, much has been made of the alleged stockpiles of chemical weapons held by the Iraqi regime. In fact the first government to use chemical weapons against the Iraqi people was the British, under the direction of Winston Churchill, along with many other assaults on Iraqi sovereignty.

Faced by a growing popular insurrection against its imperial dominance of Iraq in 1920, London carried out an aerial bombing campaign of civilian villages, described by one anonymous cabinet member at the time as "the bombing of the women and children of the villages."

A year earlier, the high command of the Royal Air Force (RAF) had suggested to Churchill, then Secretary of State for War, that chemicals be used "against recalcitrant Arabs as [an] experiment." Churchill readily agreed. "I do not understand this squeamishness about the use of gas," Churchill said. "I am strongly in favor of using poisoned gas against uncivilized tribes.... It is not necessary to use only the most deadly gases: gases can be used which cause great inconvenience and would spread a lively terror and yet would leave no serious permanent effects on most of those affected."

The use of troops and extreme brutality has characterized the British rulers' whole relation with Iraq and the rest of the Gulf region. Their intervention in Iraq began in the mid-19th century, as popular opposition to the Ottoman empire opened an opportunity to seize it from the Turkish rulers.

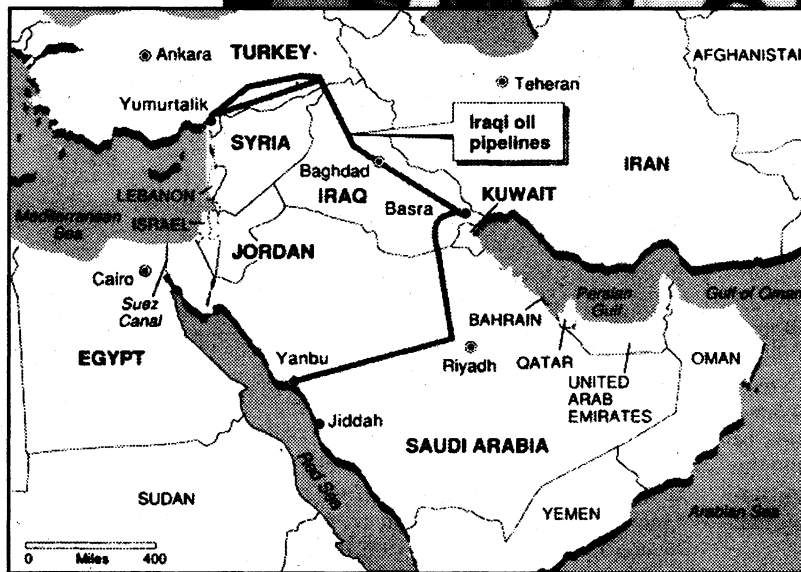
The Ottoman empire at the time lay between British-ruled areas in Africa and India, and had to be destroyed if London was to be able to unite, by means of a railway across Arabia and Mesopotamia (now Iraq), its possessions in Africa with those in Egypt and India and to freely transfer its troops to put down insurgency in these "jewels in the crown." Mesopotamia was key to finding

an overland route to India. In 1861, British capital opened a steamship company for the navigation of the Tigris river to the port of Basra.

Facing rivalry from growing German imperialism, which stood opposed to the open partition of Turkey and dismemberment of Persia (now Iran), London used its still preponderant imperial might to conclude a number of treaties of protection with local Arab chieftains. Kuwait was one of the British protectorates established at this time, in 1899. British capital was also successful in obtaining, in 1901, a concession to exploit the Persian oil fields.

When the Turkish regime entered WWI as an ally of the German government, British forces invaded southern Mesopotamia in November 1914 and pushed northward, occupying Baghdad by March 1917 and finally controlling the whole of the country by October 1918, when Iraq became a British mandate. London's military-strategic interest was now bolstered by the smell of Iraqi oil.

The 1920 insurrection in Iraq was aimed against this continued occupation of the country. In crushing the insurgency, London decided to reorganize its relations with Iraq, establishing an Iraqi monarch as ruler of an "independent" British protectorate. In June 1922 a 20-year treaty of alliance and protection was signed between the governments of Great Britain and Iraq. The British Mandate was formally terminated in 1932, following a 1930 treaty that provided for Iraq joining the League of Nations, but not before British capital had established its



Militant Ian Grant
Map on the left shows Iraq oil pipelines. British imperialism moved to take over the region now known as Iraq in the mid-19th century, primarily because of its strategic location in relation to India and Africa. Above, Feb. 7, 1998, protest in front of the UK prime minister's residence denounces London's drive to war against Iraq.

right to be the dominant exploiter of Iraqi oil and to have control over the nation's transport.

During the course of the 1930s, sections of the indigenous Iraqi capitalist class, bolstered by the oil potential of the country, sought to weaken Britain's control by reaching to other regimes in the Arab East. To impose the British-Iraq treaty when its war with German imperialism started in 1939, London again sent troops to put down Iraqi government opposition in 1941. The month-long war rapidly reestablished the client relationship, and Baghdad became an important part of the allied war effort. London maintained troops in Iraq following World War II.

But the skids were already under British

domination. On the one hand, there was growing pressure for increasing Iraqi control over the oil revenue, which was fueling nationalist sentiment. This led to an uprising in 1948 that first forced the government to repudiate an new 20-year agreement with Britain and culminated in the overthrow of the government.

On the other hand, the dominance of U.S. imperialism coming out of World War II was increasingly making its mark. In 1954 Washington extended military aid to the regime in Iraq. British influence in the region was further diminished when Washington refused to support the UK-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt following President Gamal Abdel Nasser's nationalization of the Suez canal in 1956. Although London had continued to use agreements with Baghdad to maintain RAF stations at Habbaniya and Shaiba, in 1957 Iraq endorsed the Eisenhower Doctrine under which Washington would supply "military assistance" to any Middle Eastern government whose stability was threatened by "Communist aggression."

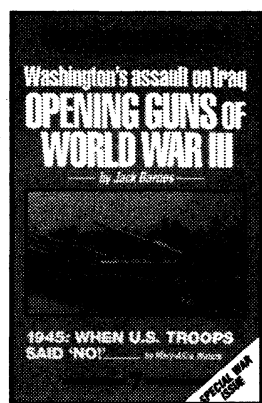
British imperialist interests in Iraq took a decisive blow in 1958 when a rebellion led by a group of army officers triumphed, overthrew the monarchy, and established a republic. Following the Suez debacle military intervention was ruled out. The RAF bases were closed and in 1959 Baghdad withdrew from the sterling bloc in which its currency had been tied to the pound.

Forced increasingly to play second fiddle to Washington, London feared the Iraqi regime's designs over its domination of the oil fields of neighboring Kuwait. At the time Kuwait was the world's third-largest oil-producing country, with around a quarter of the world's known reserves. British Petroleum had a 50 percent interest in the Kuwait Oil Company and Shell, a British-Dutch conglomerate, had just won a concession in Kuwait's offshore area. London was also the largest state investor in Kuwait Oil, which provided around 40 percent of Britain's oil supplies.

When British protection of Kuwait formally ended in 1960, London was quick to use the pretext of Iraqi aggression to send troops; the United Nations declined the Iraqi request that the troops be withdrawn. Kuwait's oil importance to the British rulers, and that of the other small Gulf states, increased when Iraq nationalized all foreign companies operating within its borders, albeit with compensation, over the years 1972-75. In the 1990-91 U.S.-led assault on Iraq, London was the first other imperialist power to join ranks with Washington, in hopes of gaining better leverage for British capital in the region.

Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Transport and General Workers union.

BOOKS FOR A WORKING-CLASS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND WAR



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Jack Barnes

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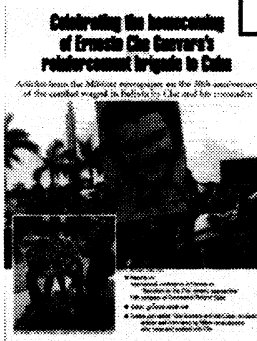
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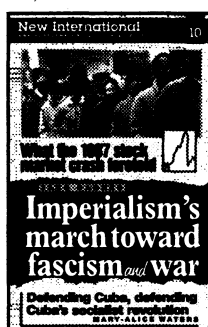
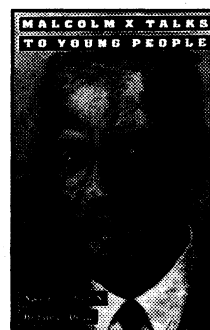
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Gulf war intensified imperialist conflicts

Below are excerpts from the article "The Opening Guns of World War III" in issue no. 7 of the Marxist magazine *New International*. It is copyright © 1991 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp., and reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

The Bush administration presents the war against Iraq as the triumph of the "new world order." It points to the fact that Moscow not only gave public backing to the U.S. war drive, but also voted for every U.S.-initiated motion in the United Nations Security Council, right down to the April 2 resolution rubber-stamping Washington's stranglehold cease-fire conditions that in practice suspend Iraqi sovereignty. This enabled the U.S. rulers to use the UN as a fig leaf in a more brazen manner than any time since the opening of the 1950s during its war against Korea.

Washington succeeded in gaining political and diplomatic cover for each new stage of its aggression in the Gulf with the aid of all four of the Security Council's other members with veto powers: Britain, China, France, and the Soviet Union. Enlisting the collaboration of the Stalinist regimes of the Soviet and Chinese workers' states was decisive to Washington's ability to present the devastating assault on the people of Iraq as if it flowed from a mandate of an "international community."

Only the government of Cuba — currently one of ten governments serving a two-year rotating stint on the Security Council — is using its position in the UN to speak out consistently against Washington's right to intervene in the Arab-Persian Gulf, under any circumstances or with whatever rationalization....

The truth is that Washington's Gulf war and its outcome did not open up a new world order of stability and UN-overseen harmony. Instead, it was the first war since the close of World War II that grew primarily out of the intensified competition and accelerating instability of the crises-ridden old imperialist world order. It is the increasing internal strains within this declining order that drove Washington to launch its murderous military adventure. The irremediable social and political conflicts, and consequent instability, that existed before the Gulf war and that underlay it have all been exacerbated:

- between imperialism and the toilers of the Middle East and elsewhere in the semicolonial world;
- among the rival imperialist powers;
- between the various imperialist states and the oppressed nations;
- between exploiters and exploited within these oppressed countries;
- between the toilers and the bourgeoisified leaderships who speak in their name and claim to represent their interests;
- among the bourgeois states of the Middle East and other oppressed nations;
- between Washington and the governments of the deformed and degenerated workers' states, first and foremost, the Soviet Union;
- between the U.S. imperialist rulers and the two workers' states that pose the biggest problems for them, North Korea and Cuba; and
- between Washington and the revolutionary government and communist leadership right on U.S. imperialism's very doorstep in the Americas — that of Cuba.

The war demonstrated once again that there is no "international community" under the aegis of world capitalism. Most importantly, it has driven home the fact that there *can be* a world community — if the exploited and oppressed worldwide remove the exploiters and oppressors, the war makers, from power....

Acceleration of interimperialist conflict

The assault against Iraq was the first of Washington's wars since World War II in which it sought to use its military might to deal blows, indirect but palpable, to U.S. imperialism's rivals, especially in Bonn, Tokyo, and Paris. The Gulf war exacerbated the conflicts and divisions between Washington and its imperialist competitors, as well as between these rival powers themselves. While we know these sharpening conflicts already existed (every working



U.S. tanks heading for the Kuwaiti border preparing for 1991 slaughter against Iraq

person has been deluged by protectionist propaganda from the U.S. government, bourgeois politicians, trade union bureaucrats, and their radical hangers-on), the war brought them to the surface with greater force and accelerated them to a degree not seen in world politics for some time.

Coming out of World War II, U.S. imperialism emerged the dominant power in the world imperialist system, both economically and militarily. For a substantial period following that war the rate of profit, and for even longer the tempo of growth of the mass of profits, was rising in all the imperialist countries. As a result, competition between the imperialist powers over markets for commodities and capital and over sources of raw materials was buffered.

Since the mid-1970s, however, the combination of the declining rate of profit, halt-

ing growth in the mass of profits, and relative slowdown in economic expansion has precipitated growing, sometimes sharp rivalry among the imperialist ruling classes. The years 1974-75 saw the first worldwide recession since 1937, as economic interdependence among the major capitalist powers grew alongside their competition and conflict.

Although the sheer size and output of the U.S. capitalist economy remains enormous, and while it remains the largest market in the world, its position as an industrial and trading power has slipped substantially in recent decades in the face of growing challenges from German, Japanese, and other rivals. U.S. strategic military power remains unchallenged, however, and is the main lever the U.S. rulers have to compensate for their relative decline.

Hundreds protest U.S. war moves

BY KEVIN DWIRE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Chanting "No War on Iraq," 200 people rallied outside St. John's Arena on the Ohio State University campus February 18. Inside the arena Clinton administration officials were holding a "national town meeting" to justify the massive bombing campaign planned for Iraq. The protest was called by the Middle East Peace Committee on campus.

Students from Ohio State, Antioch College, and Earlham College in Ohio and Goshen College in Indiana were among the crowd that gathered in the rain to protest the U.S. war on Iraq. Other people came from Cincinnati and Cleveland. Many people had tickets to get into the meeting.

Campaigners for the Socialist Workers candidates in Ohio sold 10 copies of the *Militant* newspaper. Many people also took a campaign flyer headlined "Say No to U.S. War Drive!" Matthew Herreshoff is running for U.S. Senate and Tony Prince for Congress in the 10th district. Both are members of the United Steelworkers of America.

People waiting in long lines to get into the meeting were also interested in discussing the war drive on Iraq. "I really don't know what to think about it," said one student as she took a flyer. A young member of the National Guard on active duty said he thought "we have to do something about Iraq" and said he would go if called up. One group of students pooled their money to get two copies of the *Militant* so they could read more about opposition to the U.S. war drive.

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD AND ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — Fifteen people picketing in downtown Miami against the bombing of Iraq were harassed by the city police February 12. The action was called by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists.

Unlike demonstrations held in the two previous weeks at the Federal Building, where there is little pedestrian traffic, this action was at the Government Center, next to one of the busiest Metro stops. Many people who walked by on their way home

from work stopped to ask what the action was about. Some didn't agree with the protesters but others gave thumbs up.

At about 5:30 p.m., when the picket had been going for an hour, seven police cars arrived. The main officer on the scene, Sgt. Casiano, told the organizers of the protest that they were not allowed to hold any kind of demonstration on public property without a police permit and claimed no literature table could be set up even on the public sidewalk. Organizers explained this wasn't the case, but nothing changed the cop's mind, including the fact that a lieutenant talked to before the picket had said that the action was fine. Casiano refused to call this lieutenant.

As the police surrounded a literature table that accompanied the demonstration, more people stopped to show their approval with the protesters. One woman with her son started to applaud and others came by. A young Honduran worker named Walter said, "I think it's very important what you're doing. The police are supposed to keep order but they also have to respect people's rights." Three men stayed across the street from the picket and for maybe 10 minutes yelled, "Communists, go back to Russia."

The protesters decided to plan another demonstration the next week.

Rollande Girard is a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7609. Ernie Mailhot is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1126.

BY TIM MAILHOT

GRINNELL, Iowa — Responding to a call to rally against a military strike on Iraq, 130 students came out to hear speakers and music on the campus of Grinnell College February 16. The protest was sponsored by RISE, a student organization that educates about and organizes to fight oppression.

Taimur Rahman, a leader of RISE, used his talk to raise questions about the propaganda campaign the US government is waging to win support for their war drive. "Is there anyone here who thinks the US gov-

No power other than Washington could have transported and put in place the mammoth order of battle necessary to carry a war to Iraq. While waged behind the facade of a broad "international coalition," the war was a U.S. government operation, with London's enthusiastic support and with Paris being forced to join in out of weakness. Bonn and Tokyo — still limited in their use of strategic military power abroad flowing from their defeat in World War II — took no part in the combat at all.

Through the initiation, organization, domination, and execution of this war effort, U.S. imperialism strengthened its control over Gulf oil reserves, gaining additional leverage over its rivals in Bonn, Tokyo, and Paris in the competition for world markets for commodities and capital. By throwing the biggest military forces of any other imperialist power behind Washington's war effort, the rulers in London successfully sought to guarantee themselves a privileged junior position alongside U.S. finance capital in this region, which was once largely a British protectorate but had been penetrated more and more by French trade, aid, and loans.

The commitment of combat forces abroad by the Canadian ruling class for the first time since the Korean War, and Ottawa's increasingly open and unqualified backing of Washington's foreign policy moves, indicate the pressure to grab more firmly onto the skirt of U.S. imperialism. The regime in New Zealand did the same, easing conflicts with Washington that have grown up there over port visits by U.S. ships armed with nuclear weapons. The Australian ruling class, as usual, made sure it was represented in Washington's armed entourage as well.

The relationship of forces that existed prior to the Gulf war among the capitalist powers in Europe has not been altered, but the national and state conflicts between them have been exacerbated.

ernment is doing this for idealistic reasons? Or that just maybe, in spite of everything, some good will come of this?" The students answered back with a loud "NO!"

Tom Alter, Socialist Workers candidate for governor in Iowa put the war drive in the framework of the war against working people at home and abroad. "They say we're in a business upturn, but what we get is downsizing and speedup in the workplace. The state legislature has also been on another push to reinstate the death penalty, a weapon of terror aimed at working people." Alter called on the students to take an internationalist approach to solidarity.

A table full of literature set up by a team of Socialist Workers Party members and Young Socialists attracted lots of attention at the Grinnell College campus in Grinnell, Iowa. The team spent a day on campus talking to students about Washington's war drive, why socialists support abortion rights and what revolutionary socialists stand for. Late in the afternoon, the activists participated in an anti-war rally organized by students.

A dozen people signed up for more information on the Young Socialists, 26 bought copies of the *Militant*, and one person purchased a copy of *New International* no. 7, "The Opening Guns of World War III" along with three other books.

Tim Mailhot is a member of USWA Local 310.

'Militant' editor to speak at Harvard

Militant editor Naomi Craine will be speaking at Harvard University the evening of Tuesday, March 3, on "Washington's War Drive against Iraq," at the invitation of students organizing a "Democracy Teach-In" week on that campus. More information on the event will appear in next week's issue.

Activists in Chicago take on killer cops, complicit courts

BY JOHN STUDER

CHICAGO — Since last September 26, when two Chicago cops brutally beat 18-year-old Jeremiah Mearday, breaking his jaw and driving his teeth down his throat, opponents of police brutality and supporters of the cops have faced off on the city streets here.

After Mearday was beaten by the police, he was arrested and charged with starting a fight with Matthew Thiel and James Comito Jr., the two cops who beat him. That night, opponents of racism and police brutality began organizing. They formed a city-wide committee, the Chicago Committee Against Police Brutality, chaired by Rev. Paul Jakes, Jr., of the Old St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago's west side Black community. Two rallies in support of Mearday drawing hundreds of people, were held in the church.

At the same time, the police brought charges against Mearday. Under the pressure of the public outcry, the city suspended the two cops and accused them of violating police policy.

On November 7 Mearday appeared for his first day of court on the cops' charges, and was met by 100 police officers, the overwhelming majority of them white, who jammed the courtroom, mostly in uniform. When Mearday's case was called, they stood and glared at the youth.

The second court hearing against Mearday was held December 3. More than 200 opponents of police brutality, overwhelmingly Black, marched on the court house, chanting "racist cops, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide." They were met by a counterdemonstration of more than 100 cops who were bussed to the courthouse from a nearby police station.

The city Police Board met a number of times in December and January to take testimony in the suspension of the two officers. Again hundreds of cops attended these hearings to back Comito and Thiel. Jakes and other leaders of the Chicago Committee Against Police Brutality also appeared. The Police Board has taken the case under advisement and is not scheduled to rule until April at the earliest.

Mearday's next hearing was held January 21. Some 100 opponents of police brutality marched on the courthouse before the hearing and 80 attended the hearing itself. More than 100 cops — including the leaders of the Fraternal Order of Police — marched on the courthouse and also jammed into the hearing room.

When the court clerk called the case, all the white cops stood up in unison. The supporters of Mearday then jumped to their feet and shot their fists into the air.

When reporters interviewed Mearday supporters, one white officer told the media, "they like to talk to the ignorant masses." Some of the cops threatened to organize a "slowdown" on the job, demanding a free

hand on city streets.

Mearday's next court hearing is scheduled for February 18.



After more than two years of public protests, on February 3 lawyers for the city of Chicago agreed to a settlement conceding a reported \$637,000 to the family of Jorge Guillén, who was suffocated to death by cops. The settlement must now be approved by the judge in the federal suit brought by Guillén's family against the police officers and by the Chicago City Council, which must vote to agree to all legal settlements over \$100,000.

Guillén was killed in front of his wife and children on Oct. 3, 1995, by Chicago cops Chris Anderson, Daniel Parise, and Michael Ponti. According to paramedics on the scene, the police made no effort to revive Guillén after he stopped breathing. The Cook County Medical Examiner ruled the death a homicide.

After the killing, the cops' own Office of Professional Standards recommended that the three officers be suspended. These actions were first reduced by the police superintendent and then totally vacated by the Chicago Police Board. Under pressure from the cops, two consecutive Cook County state's attorneys refused to file charges against the cops.

Ilsa Guillén, Jorge Guillén's widow, filed a civil suit against the cops demanding they be held accountable for the death of her husband. Activists organized a committee, Neighbors Against Police Brutality, and held meetings, demonstrations, and other actions to win justice for Guillén.

Family and committee members were successful in forcing the Chicago city council police and fire committee to hold a public hearing into the murder in the summer of 1997. The hearing was packed with dozens of supporters of Guillén. The council committee had yet to release its report on the incident before the city announced the settlement with the Guillén family.



Militant/Tony Lane

Demonstration of 250 people in Minneapolis on Martin Luther King Day January 19 demanding justice for Lawrence Miles Jr., a 15-year-old shot in the back by police and charged with "terroristic threats." The city dropped the charges against Miles Jr. the next day. Supporters against police injustice have also mobilized for Andre Madison, who was shot by police in November 1996, and sentenced to three years in prison for second-degree assault. His sister Carlotta, who is active in the case, spoke at a February 9 press conference to protest police harassment, as she was detained briefly without being issued a citation on fictitious accusations of driving a stolen vehicle.

The day after the settlement was reported to the press by a source at City Hall, both Mayor Daley and Guillén's family called press conferences to comment on the agreement.

Daley claimed that despite the city's decision to settle, he continues to defend the three cops. He said that the settlement avoided taking the case before "an unpredictable jury" that would only have to find a "preponderance of the evidence" in favor of the charges against the cops, and might award Guillén's family more money. Daley claimed that cases like Guillén's were settled all the time.

At the same time, City Hall sources reported that the Guillén agreement was the largest such settlement in at least five years. Since 1992, the city of Chicago has paid more than \$29 million to settle 1,657 lawsuits charging police with brutality, false arrest or improper search and seizure.

While the mayor spoke to the press at City Hall, the Guillén family and their lawyers canceled their press conference, reporting that city lawyers had threatened them that if they spoke to the press it would jeopardize final approval of the settlement.

"The family has been muzzled," Rev. William Coleman told the press, surrounded by members of Neighbors Against Police Brutality, state senator Miguel Del Valle, and other activists against police violence, including Rev. Paul Jakes, Jr. Jakes is a leader of the Greater Chicago Committee Against Police Brutality, formed last fall to press for justice in the police beating of Jeremiah Mearday.

William Nolan, president of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the Chicago cop association, condemned the city's decision to settle the case. "This is absolutely bogus," he declared, claiming the settlement was part of a "disgusting pattern" of the city and Mayor Daley failing to support the cops. The city's police officers and the FOP have become increasingly active in fighting against charges of police brutality here.

Lizbeth Guillén, Jorge Guillén's daughter, told the Chicago *Sun-Times* that the settlement did not mean the family had won justice. "It might be more justified if the three cops would be arrested and put in jail," she said. "That would mean more than anything. As long as they're still out there, it's not good enough for me."

Pittsburgh: why is travel to Cuba a crime?

BY KATY KARLIN

PITTSBURGH — "It's my opinion that the ban on travel to Cuba isn't about spending dollars over there," said Dan Kovalik. "I think the United States government doesn't want people to travel to Cuba because they might learn, they might like it, and they might come back and ask for nationalized health care or subsidized housing."

Kovalik, an attorney for the United Steel Workers of America, participated as part of a broad panel of speakers protesting the U.S. government's ban on travel to Cuba held at

the University of Pittsburgh on February 11. Entitled "Why is Travel to Cuba a U.S. Crime?" the meeting attracted more than 50 people, including many college students.

Kate Daher, a member of the Pittsburgh Cuba Coalition, chaired the meeting. Daher, who visited Cuba in 1995, is one of many travelers who got a questionnaire from the U.S. Department of Treasury about her trip late last year. "The letter is dated Thanksgiving Day," she said. "Apparently the Treasury Department is working overtime to harass people who have been to Cuba."

Daher added that the letter asked questions similar to those asked in the House Un-American Committee hearings of the 1950s. "Who did you go with?" she read. "Who paid for your trip? Please provide the names and addresses of all travel companions who accompanied you on your trip."

Daher declared, "We reject the U.S. government telling us that we don't have the right to travel there, to talk to Cubans."

Pittsburgh City Councilman James Ferlo, who has visited Cuba and who sponsored a city resolution declaring Pittsburgh a sister city of Matanzas, Cuba, opened the meeting. He encouraged the audience to go to Cuba and see for themselves.

Arleen Kelly, a board member of the Pittsburgh Sister City Association, recounted how she met the Sister Cities program through her interest in her Irish heritage and establishing a sister cities ties with Ireland.

It was through the program she traveled to Cuba. After returning to the United States, she received a letter from the FBI probing the details of her trip. "It was terrifying to receive a letter from the government," Kelly said. She responded to the FBI with a letter of her own explaining the history of the Sister Cities program, which was founded by former president Dwight D. Eisenhower. "I

didn't hear from them after that," she said.

However, upon her return from a trip to Ireland some time later, she was detained at customs. "I did not have a Cuban visa stamped in my passport. But they stopped me, went through my bags, asked me where else I had been, and whether I was bringing cigars into the country," she said. "I never knew Ireland was known for its cigars."

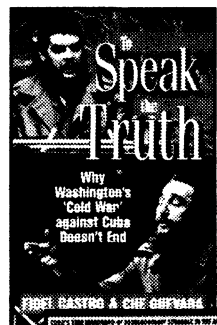
Stefanie Swenko, a student at the University of Pittsburgh who participated in an international youth festival in Cuba in 1997, protested the curbs on the academic freedom to study about and visit Cuba. She told the audience that the university's Center for Latin American Studies, which has supported and co-sponsored programs of the Pittsburgh Cuba Coalition in the past, received a phone call from the FBI a few weeks before the meeting on the travel ban.

"The FBI asked the Center for Latin American Studies department what they knew about the Cuba Coalition," Swenko said. "All the Coalition's meetings are open. We post up fliers. We have phone numbers on the fliers. I don't think that phone call was about getting information about the Coalition," she said, "but to let the Center know that the FBI" is aware of its relations with the Coalition.

Kovalik told the audience how he first became interested in Cuba, as a teenager visiting Nicaragua in the 1980s. In 1996 he attended a congress sponsored Cuban Congress of Trade Unions. "It was real democracy," he said. "People were talking about all kinds of different problems they faced. Fidel Castro was there, and they were frank with him about these problems."

Jules Lobell, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, traced the history of travel restrictions and the ban on travel to Cuba in particular.

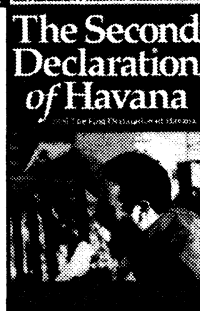
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YS wins new recruits

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, 1573 N. Milwaukee, P.O. Box #478, Chicago, Ill. 60622. Tel: (773) 772-0551. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY SARAH KATZ

CHICAGO — During a rally in Boston of 400 people protesting the U.S. war threats against Iraq, Elena Tate asked to join the Young Socialists. Bill Schmidt, who has recently joined with socialist workers in Detroit campaigning against imperialism and war at factory plant gates and in working-class communities, also asked to join. After attending the January 17-18 West Coast Socialist Conference in Seattle, JP Crysdale decided he should be a member in San Francisco. They are the newest members of the communist movement.

When asked why she wanted to join the YS, Tate responded, "I want to build an organization of people who are working to change this society and through that process, change themselves."

Together with socialist workers, Tate has been part of organizing for the Northeast Young Feminist Summit sponsored by the National Organization for Women, which will take place February 27-March 1. Now, with Washington moving closer to bombing Iraq, she is most interested in opposing Washington's war moves. She explained that the Young Socialists are participating in classes on *New International* no. 7, which contains the articles "The Opening Guns of World War III" and "The Working-Class Campaign Against Imperialism and War."

Schmidt has been going to Militant Labor Forums regularly since last September. Since returning from the regional socialist conference and convention of the Communist League in Toronto over New Year's weekend, he has jumped into political activity, with other socialists, in Detroit. This includes protesting the release from prison of the two cops sentenced in the murder of Malice Green in 1993 and selling revolu-

tionary literature in Highland Park, a predominantly Black area inside Detroit.

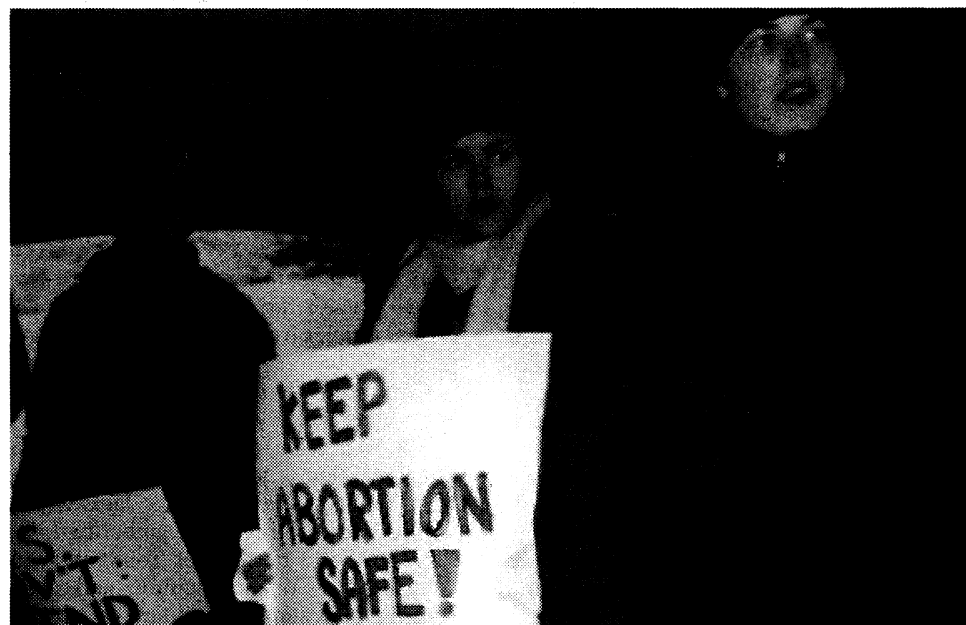
Crysdale, who was involved in the YS for a short time last year in Philadelphia, ran into the organization again at a literature table at City College in San Francisco. Now he helps set up tables at the University of California Santa Cruz and other campuses. When asked how people respond to our literature tables, Crysdale said, "On campus a lot of young people who used to back the Democratic Party are glad to see us. They say, 'You're the only political group that's against the war drive.'"

Crysdale decided to join the YS because he "got a better taste of how the YS organizes itself — in action" by going through the Seattle conference and then participating with other YS members in actions, like a recent protest against the coming U.S. military strikes and a rally of 20 people at the Federal building opposing the abortion clinic bombing in Birmingham, Alabama.

The latest Militant Labor Forum in San Francisco took up recent attempts to gut bilingual education in California. Ten youth, including several UC Santa Cruz and Mills College students, attended.

BY DANIEL AHL
AND JUAN FIGUEROA

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — On February



Militant/Michael Pennock

Young Socialists have been part of organizing demonstrations and speak-outs defending a woman's right to choose. Above, a rally in Minneapolis.

14 more than 100 people turned out to a protest at the U.S. embassy against the impending bombing campaign by Washington and London against Iraq. The protest was called by the Young Socialists.

YS member Johan Nilsson spoke about the so-called neutral role played by the Swedish government on the United Nations Security Council. "Swedish imperialism is no nicer than any other imperialist power. It does not take the side of working people in

this country or the working people in Iraq," Nilsson said. A speaker from the Iraqi Women's Association took up the bourgeois press propaganda about the 1991 slaughter being a "clinical war," stating, "those bombings weren't clean. They were the dirtiest in history."

This came on the heels of another YS-initiated demonstration of about eighty people February 4. A large number of those attending the protests were immigrants from Iraq.

Caterpillar workers to vote on contract

BY CAPPY KIDD

CHICAGO — On February 13, union negotiators and Caterpillar Corp. reached a tentative contract, which will be presented for a membership vote on the weekend of February 21-22. Members of the United Auto Workers (UAW), who have been without a contract at Caterpillar since 1991, ended an 18-month strike against the company in December 1995. According to the *Pekin Daily Times* of February 13, terms of the proposed agreement include: a six-year contract; new hires starting at 70 percent of union wage with 2.5 percent increases every six months, taking six years to reach full pay; "flex-time" and alternate scheduling.

The tentative agreement also reportedly calls for full amnesty — reinstatement in the union — to all line crossers, dismissal of all 441 unfair labor practice complaints filed against the company, and the return without back pay of about three-quarters of the 160 workers "illegally-terminated" during the strike. Up to 50 of the fired workers will be forced to arbitrate their cases. The company would grant strikers seven months' strike time toward retirement and raise retirement benefits from \$1800 per month to \$2300 per month by the year 2004.

Wayne Zimmerman, Caterpillars Human Services director, was quoted as saying, "We are very, very happy and satisfied. This

agreement is in the best interest for our company and our employees."

In a statement quoted in the *Decatur Herald & Review*, Richard Shoemaker, international vice president of the UAW and the union's lead negotiator, said, "We're pleased to have the negotiations behind us.... We're confident the agreement will be ratified by the membership."

Jim Clingan, president of UAW Local 974 in East Peoria, said he is recommending ratification only because his members need a contract. He said he was not happy with the agreement. "The fact that it's over with, yes. The settlement itself, no," he said. Quoted by the *Decatur Herald & Review*, "He and other UAW negotiators said persuading

members to support the agreement will not be easy. That was supported by some rank-and-file members who said they do not like what they have been told about the deal."

Some UAW members are campaigning for a "no" vote. Tom Smith, member of Local 974 in Peoria, told *The Militant*, "People are campaigning for a 'no' vote. Inside the plants people are wearing buttons and stickers calling for a 'no' vote. Union members have been getting out to other locals to try to get the word out. This contract is not much different than the final offer [rejected by the UAW members in 1995]. There are a few baited hooks for some people particularly the ones near retirement. It's divide and conquer."

Miami: defend abortion rights

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA

MIAMI — Two dozen abortion rights supporters rallied here February 7 to protest the fatal January 29 bombing attack on the New Woman, All Women Health Care Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama. The pro-choice activists also gathered to observe the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which allowed women the legal right to choose an abortion by rec-

ognizing the right to privacy between a woman and her physician. Those in attendance included students from Florida International University; members of the Miami chapter of the National Organization for Women; the Miami Clinic Access Project; trade unionists from the International Association of Machinists; Refuse and Resist; and the Young Socialists.

"It's outrageous that the right to abortion has been a legal fact for over 25 years, yet women are still having to risk their lives in order to obtain this procedure," explained Sterling Sandow, a student from Florida International University. She explained that the lack of public response following the murderous attack compelled her to step forward and attend the first pro-choice action she was informed of. Sandow felt that the Miami picket showed that rightist, antichoice force had not won.

Despite the unseasonably cold weather and galeforce winds, a spirited stream of chants was maintained for well over an hour.

The chants were punctuated by dozens of cars honking their horns in response to signs reading "Honk if you're for a woman's right to choose." Many drivers raised a clenched fist in solidarity with the rally, while others waved and smiled to those assembled on the street.

Three English-language TV channels showed the rally on their local news broadcasts that evening. Spanish-language Channel 23 also sent a reporting team that interviewed participants at the action.

Mark Johnson, a paralegal who joined the picket line, commented, "Actions like this are crucial if we are to make sure the right to choose is insured for all women"

Mary Nell Bockman is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

Shirley Peña is a member of the International Association of Machinists.

Young feminists plan meeting in Boston

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

BOSTON — "The Power of Our Voices," the Northeast Young Feminist Summit sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW), is building among young activists throughout the region. Participants will be coming from seven states — Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. Over 150 people have registered in advance for the February 27-March 1 conference in Boston according to summit coordinator Andrea Lee.

At a planning meeting for the conference on February 15, Carey Anderson, a student at State University of New York, Albany, reported that 50 people are coming from campuses in upstate New York including Vassar College, Cornell University, SUNY and Bard College. Providence, Rhode Island, participants and New York City NOW have chartered buses.

Bergin O'Malley is organizing participation in the summit from New York City. "Young women need to group together to discuss what we want, what we can fight for. It's really solidarity," O'Malley said. Students are coming from four city colleges

and several high schools so far. "We just had two different people call in and reserve 10 seats each on the bus," she reported. NOW plans to send two buses from New York. Tickets are \$40 and can be reserved by calling (212) 260-4422.

Ten thousand flyers have been printed for distribution in the Boston area and mailings have gone out to hundreds of groups and individuals. High school activists have organized an outreach campaign to students through calling, speakers, and leafleting at schools.

The U.S. drive towards war against Iraq will be one of the issues discussed at the conference. Elena Tate, a high school student in Cambridge who is speaking at a workshop, has been part of protests against the war in Boston. "I really urge young women and men who oppose the war moves of the U.S. government to come to this conference," Tate said. "This government doesn't defend the rights of women at home. The slaughter they are planning shows what they think of the women, men, and children of Iraq." A discussion on why feminists should oppose the war against Iraq is planned for Saturday night.

Keeping the communist arsenal in print

Continued from Page 4

of communist literature at plant gates, how to organize their forces and political reach in a variety of factories and unions in each city, how to clean up Pathfinder bookstores and meeting halls, how to plan more effective public forums where the voice of militant labor can be heard each week — how to function in a more disciplined and collective manner.

Active supporters of the SWP are also pitching in to respond to these political developments. In San Francisco, a recent meeting of active supporters had a wide-ranging discussion of the party's campaigning efforts, how to begin raising money for the spring party-building fund, and how to fill up the roster for bookstore staffing to free up party members to do more plant-gate sales and political work on campuses and elsewhere.

In Los Angeles, Robin Maisel a long-time member and supporter of the communist movement, recently sent in \$200 for a rush order of copies of the special International Socialist Review supplement to the *Militant* featuring the talk by Mary-Alice Waters "Pathfinder Press was born with the October revolution." Waters gave the presentation at a conference in Havana, Cuba, on political publishing. "I would like to do a mailing to supporters and others in southern California as a fund raiser," Maisel wrote.

Following up on Maisel's idea, *Militant* editors have decided to reissue the talk by Waters as part of an 8 1/2"x11" format booklet, which will be available soon. Waters gave her presentation at one of the meetings surrounding the February 4-10 Havana book fair. The new *Militant* booklet will include another talk Waters gave at the launching of Pathfinder's *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'guerrilla'* during the book fair, and related articles from recent issues of the paper.

Communist workers and youth from around the world will be heading to Cairo, Egypt, March 4 to participate in an international meeting of youth. This author, along with Young Socialists leader Jack Willey, will be participating in the gathering to assess the World Festival of Youth and Students held in Cuba last summer and to discuss the next steps in building an anti-imperialist youth movement. They will also report for the *Militant* on the response by working people in North Africa and the Middle East to Washington's attempted slaughter of the Iraqi people.

Revolutionizing book production

These openings for the communist movement to recruit have encouraged the steps now under way to revolutionize the production of revolutionary books and pamphlets in Pathfinder's print shop, to meet the growing political demand.

The print shop's leadership and staff are working to rapidly select, acquire, and begin using labor-saving machinery that will allow them to send electronic files of books directly from the computer to printing plate.

To make this revolution in book production feasible, supporters of the communist movement have responded to an appeal during the Seattle conference to begin organizing to produce digital manuscripts of books ready for printing plates.

In a report adopted by the 1991 convention of the Socialist Workers Party, party leader Mary-Alice Waters explained the importance of organizing the work of the print shop — including decisions on machinery and the use of valuable factory space — on the basis of the goals the communist movement is working to achieve.

Rather than piling up large inventories of books that deteriorate — in the process either wasting resources on expensive warehousing costs, or misallocating precious production footage for dead storage — the aim, Waters said, must be to keep the expanding arsenal of Pathfinder titles in print in the quantities needed to meet the demand for revolutionary literature.

Only then, Waters said, can we make the right decisions "about what kind of machinery we need to efficiently do these kinds of short runs." Armed with that understanding, she added, the response of members and

supporters of the communist movement will be: "If that's what the party needs, we've got to have the machinery to do it."

At the opening of the 1990s, supporters of the communist movement raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to make possible the purchase of two Heidelberg sheet fed presses to enable Pathfinder books to be produced in small quantities and with increased quality. Today, raising the capital necessary for modern computer-to-plate equipment is the next step along this road, enabling the sheetfed presses to be used to much greater effect. This step will allow quick turnaround, short-run printing that can bring the books and pamphlets out in a timely way, at lower costs, and with a smaller print shop staff.

"Eliminating most of the labor in the shop's prepress department will also allow us to concentrate on improving productivity and efficiency in the bindery, on the presses, and in other departments in the plant," said José Aravena, a member of the Young Socialists who heads up the bindery department of the shop.

A revolution is also under way in how the Pathfinder editorial staff organizes its work. Staff members have begun training

Continued on Page 15

Cuba book fair draws 40,000 people

Continued from Page 7

of launchings were organized to celebrate publications of new books in Cuba and elsewhere. These events generally feature relatively brief presentations followed by people lining up to buy copies of the newly published work. This year there was discussion and debate at a number of the launchings, encouraged by the organizers of the events.

One example was the presentation of a book of articles and interviews by Noam Chomsky on Latin America, published recently by Editora Abril. In the discussion, one participant characterized Chomsky's political views as anarchist, and pointed to his pessimism about the abilities of the working class to lead the struggle for power.

Iroel Sánchez, the director of Editora Abril and the chair of the meeting, explained that Abril had published the collection de-

spite political differences with some of Chomsky's views. Sánchez noted that the collection in fact contains a 1991 interview in which Chomsky says that Cuba has run out of options. Nonetheless, Sánchez said, "seven years after that interview, we are still here, and we are here publishing his book."

Other lively and well-attended launchings included those for *Caminos del Che*, published in Mexico by Jorge "Papito" Serguera, the Cuban ambassador to Algeria in the early 1960s; *Noticias de un Secuestro*, a new book by Gabriel García Márquez; and four new volumes of *En Marcha con Fidel* by Antonio Núñez Jiménez covering the years 1959-62.

Pathfinder presented *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'guerrilla'* jointly with the book's Cuban publisher, Editora Política. Addressing the gathering were the author, Brigadier General Harry Villegas (*Pombo*); Iraida Aguirrechu, editor of the Cuban edition; and Pathfinder president Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the English edition (see article in last week's *Militant*). This was the second time Pathfinder has participated in this way

at the Havana book fair. At the previous fair in 1996 Pathfinder and Editora Política jointly launched Pathfinder's edition of Ernesto Che Guevara's *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War*.

One of the most widely publicized book launches this year was for *La Reconcentración 1896-1897*. The book, an account of the concentration camps the Spanish army built in Cuba during the war through which Cuba ultimately won its independence, tells how 300,000 peasants were literally starved to death in the camps. The facts in that volume have been publicly contested by a spokesperson for the Spanish government, who denied such death camps were government policy. Cuban president Fidel Castro, who attended this launching, commended the volume and its author, Revolutionary Armed Forces colonel Raúl Izquierdo Canosa for an accurate portrayal of the "cruel and merciless policies of colonialism."

Francisco Picado and Mary-Alice Waters contributed to this article.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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Des Moines

Stop the Imperialist Slaughter in Iraq! The Truth About Washington's War. Sat., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. 2724 Douglas Ave. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$4. Tel: (515) 277-4600.

CANADA

Vancouver

Boeing, the War Industry, and Attacks on Workers Rights. Speaker: Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party, assembler at Boeing in Everett, Washington, and a member of International Association of Machinists Local 751A. Breen is co-chair of the Seattle Committee to Defend Free Speech. Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd. and 24th Ave.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Siren Call of Economic Nationalism. Fri., Feb. 27, 7 p.m. 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

CALENDAR

DETROIT

Michigan

The Pope's Visit to Cuba. A report back from Detroitans attending the event. Panelists: Father John Nowlan, Nora Mendoza. Thurs., March 5, 7 p.m. Wayne State University, Room 289, Student Center Building. Sponsored by WSU Newman Catholic Center and the Justice for Cuba Coalition. For more information, call (313) 577-3462 or (313) 561-8004.

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WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket Post Office, NSW 1240. Tel: 02-9281-3297. Compuserve: 106450,2216

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve:

101515,2702

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766. Compuserve: 106462,327

CANADA

Montreal: 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 104614,2606

Toronto: 851 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M3. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

FRANCE

Paris: MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

How about handcuffs? — Hugs, kisses, a pat on the back, or a “high five.” These and other public displays of affection are banned at



Harry Ring

Nicholas Junior High in Fullerton, California. Responding to student protest, a school official declared: “We prefer that kids keep their hands to themselves.”

Didn't go upside his head? — A Hillsborough, New Jersey, cop is

suining his “union,” the Policemen’s Benevolent Ass’n (PBA), for libel. The PBA prez, in a letter to colleagues in neighboring Montgomery, had branded him a “bad apple” who had violated the police “honor code.” Also, his associates shunned and humiliated him. Why? After a traffic accident, he had given a ticket to the mother of a cop in Montgomery.

The sane society — British officials are considering a posthumous pardon for Helen Duncan, a spiritualist who was convicted of witchcraft during World War II. She was busted under the 1735 Witchcraft Act while doing a seance. Police said she divulged information about the sinking of a ship which she said

she obtained during the seance. She was prosecuted as a security risk by officials who feared that she would “see” and disclose the top-secret site for the Allied D-Day landing on the French coast.

The ‘superior’ sex? — Detroit medical researchers report evidence that in the aging process, the male brain shrinks faster than those of females. The doctor who headed up the project confided, “My wife says it’s no surprise to her.”

Must make them proud — The Los Angeles County board of supervisors voted unanimously to charge county jail inmates \$3 for each visit to the medical ward. Supervisor Gloria Molina said this will

cut down on “frivolous” waste of tax money. We assume nonfrivolous waste is still OK.

Breathe lightly — “Air pollution may contribute to the death of up to 24,000 frail and elderly people each year,” states the first British government study of the effects on health of fumes from vehicles and industry. — *London Times*.

Slippery as soap — After a test run, Procter & Gamble has made its fat-free oil, Olestra, available for use in Frito-Lay’s high-salt snacks. A federally required label will caution that Olestra “may cause abdominal cramping and loose stools” and slow the absorption of some vitamins. But no notice that Frito-

Lay will charge an extra 25 percent for products that include the oil.

Must think they’re in New York — Stemming from a corruption inquiry, 11 cops have been suspended or transferred from the police unit that pioneered Zero Tolerance enforcement in England. Assertedly, hundreds of criminal convictions will be reviewed.

Ask Bill Gates — “It seems that all the information in the world, all that is known, has been known or might be needed to be known is available on the Internet. The human understanding of God is that he is all-knowing, all powerful. So is the Internet God?” — Cannon Geoff Smith, Church of England.

Cuban leader exposes U.S. gov’t aims in Iraq, 1990

The following selection is excerpted from the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. As Washington deepened its preparations for the 1990–91 slaughter of the Iraqi people, Cuban government ambassador to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcón, used the platform of the UN Security Council to condemn economic sanctions against Iraq and to defend its sovereignty,

BOOK OF THE WEEK

while telling the truth about Washington’s acts of aggression. Below are remarks made by Alarcón at an Aug. 6, 1990, Security Council meeting. It is copyright © 1990 by Pathfinder Press and reprinted by permission.

BY RICARDO ALARCÓN

To Cuba, the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of states, no matter what the reason may be; of the nonuse of force in international relations; of the peaceful settlement of disputes between states; and of respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all nations are essential principles of international order. It is in defense of these principles that we have expressed our disapproval and condemnation of the entry of Iraqi forces into the territory of Kuwait a few days ago, and have declared that this state of affairs must be ended through the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory and the full restoration of Kuwait’s sovereignty....

Reference is frequently made in our debates to the changes taking place in the international arena. I wonder whether anyone really believes that what we have here is also the expression of a change, of something new in international life. Is the United States really concerned with defending the rights of weak states, of small countries? Is this really a defense of the principle of nonintervention? Are we really talking about defense of the principle of the nonuse of force in international relations? Is it really the need to promote respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of states that motivates the United States to urge these sanctions against Iraq? Is that really the reason?

Is the defense of the legitimate interests of the Kuwaiti government really the concern that has led the U.S. delegation to act

as it is doing now? Or is it the ambition of the United States to intervene in and dominate the Middle East? My delegation has no doubt as to what the answers to these questions would be, but the Council and the international community have no reason for any doubt in that regard either.

The draft resolution before us was originally received by all of us in an almost identical version when it was faxed to us from the U.S. Mission at 5:48 p.m. on Friday, August 3. An attempt is now being made to justify the actions it proposes on the grounds that Iraq has failed to carry out the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwaiti territory or by interpreting various statements made in Baghdad on Sunday [August 5] or what has been said here by the permanent representative of Iraq. But that is not the truth.

The plan to impose sanctions on Iraq actually existed before we entered this new phase of Security Council deliberations, at a time when no one even knew about the statement made by the Iraqi government, also on August 3, to the effect that it was going to begin to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. But apart from this, while we were discussing or negotiating or holding consultations on this draft resolution, the U.S. government sent a contingent of marines to the territory of Liberia.¹ I do not recall any consultations held on that subject....

To justify this draft resolution, reference is now being made to the positions taken by various states or groups of states concerning this lamentable conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. But we cannot help recalling that for twenty-three years all the states of the region — Iraq, Kuwait, and all the other states — all the Nonaligned states and the General Assembly, almost unanimously, have condemned Israel’s occupation of the territories we have come to describe, by diplomatic tradition, as the occupied territories. Apparently those territories can be occupied forever....

The territory of Angola — part of it — was occupied for some fifteen years by the South African regime’s troops.² My delegation does not recall any occasion when anybody discovered the principle of noninterference and respect for territorial integrity, let alone urged the imposition of effective sanctions upon South Africa to compel it to abandon Angolan territory.

The territory of Lebanon — or part of it — has been occupied by Israel for twelve years. On the eve of this deplorable and regrettable conflict between Kuwait and Iraq, as we all know, the Council had to consider once again the situation concerning the United Nations force in southern Lebanon. We had to confine ourselves to renewing that force’s mandate and to issuing a terse and carefully worded presidential declaration that made no reference to stiff sanctions against Israel, despite the fact that Israel, as the secretary-general’s own report stated, is not complying with the relevant Security Council resolution, is not cooperating with the United Nations force in the area, and, even worse, is attacking it....

Seven months ago the territory of another small and weak country [Panama] was invaded by the military force of a great power and in a matter of hours that power, the



Selling produce in Baghdad after bombings in 1991

United States, took possession of that country. There was one innovation in that case that was perhaps without precedent. A new government was installed, and perhaps for the first time in the world the president, the head of government, took the oath of office at a U.S. military base, naturally in the presence of the commanding general of the occupying forces.³

That happened seven months ago. There was, of course, no U.S. draft resolution calling for the imposition of sanctions against the United States. But beyond that — regret-

tably I must say this — there was likewise not much sentiment in favor of such a proposal among the other members of the Council, and consequently the Security Council did not even make a statement on the matter. The General Assembly did so; on that occasion it adopted a resolution, and the vote showed that four of the countries sponsoring the draft resolution now before us voted against the General Assembly’s resolution concerning the illegal U.S. invasion of Panamanian territory.⁴

¹ On August 5, 1990, the day before Alarcón’s remarks, Washington dispatched an airborne contingent of 255 marines to civil war-torn Monrovia, Liberia, declaring they could “remain as long as necessary to assure the security” of U.S. citizens.

² Troops of the South African apartheid regime, with the backing of Washington, invaded Angola in 1975. Their attempt to overturn the government of the newly independent state was blocked, however, thanks to the assistance of Cuban volunteer troops. The South African government continued its war against Angola until 1988, when its army was decisively defeated by Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian forces at Cuito Cuanavale.

³ U.S. troops invaded Panama December 20, 1989, installing Guillermo Endara as the country’s new president the same day. Endara was sworn in at Fort Clayton, a U.S. military base in the canal zone.

⁴ The four members of the Security Council whose representatives voted against the resolution on Panama were Britain, Canada, France, and the United States.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



March 2, 1973

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20 — The announcement of plans for a general strike in support of the demands of the striking teachers here capped the most dramatic day so far in the six-week-long walkout by the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT). The Philadelphia AFL-CIO executive council, in conjunction with the Teamsters and other independent unions, has set Feb. 28 as the date for a massive labor march and rally in support of the striking teachers.

The call for a general strike was precipitated by the jailing of PFT President Frank Sullivan and chief negotiator John Ryan, followed by the refusal of the courts to set bail for them and the arrests since Feb. 15 of 778 teachers.

Yesterday 373 teachers were charged with contempt of court for violating an injunction barring picketing.

The demonstration was a spirited one, with teachers carrying a variety of signs

As of this report, the strike seems to be solid. The PFT estimates that about 10,000 out of 13,000 teachers in the school system are out. 2,000 of those who are in the schools are nonunion teachers. The city’s estimate is also in this range, although it claimed that 260 out of 280 schools were open yesterday. “They put a principal in the school, he locks the front door, and they call that open,” explained one striking teacher.



March 1, 1948

The Truman Doctrine continues to unfold in Greece. Major General Van Fleet, a combat general, has been named Commander of U.S. Army, Navy and Air Forces in that unhappy country. Simultaneously the State Department has forced the reactionary Greek government to put Van Fleet officially on the Greek National Defense Council. This body makes all important military decisions on conduct of the civil war.

Washington is openly dissatisfied with the slow tempo of the war in Greece. True, the firing squads are working day and night. There is a death penalty for strikers. The concentration camps are filled to overflowing. The American newspapers carry pictures of decapitated partisans. But still Washington isn’t satisfied. The Marshall Planners want full scale field operations against the guerrilla armies.

Wall Street is determined to keep Greece as a battlefield whether the Greek people like it or not. General Van Fleet’s mission is to put the heat on the highest war council. His subordinates have the job of driving combat units into battle. How far this goes can be seen from the interview given by U.S. Colonel A. J. Regnier to the United Press immediately after the recent battle near Salonika. Regnier told how the Greek officers showed insufficient aggressiveness and how he took command and led the troops in the storming of a vital hill.

From Pathfinder

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!
CUBA SPEAKS OUT AT THE UNITED NATIONS
Fidel Castro, Ricardo Alarcón
Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters
\$10.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Stop the U.S. slaughter

Continued from front page

U.S. capitalist rulers are hell-bent on unleashing a slaughter against the Iraqi people. In so doing, their goal, which they failed to achieve in the 1990-91 Gulf War, is not only to overthrow the Iraqi government and install one more subservient to their interests. The ultimate target of the U.S. billionaires' war machine is the workers state in the former Soviet Union, whose workers and farmers they have yet to crush some eight years after proclaiming a U.S. "triumph" in the Cold War. The conflicts with Russia have sharpened over the past several years, particularly with the drive by Washington to expand NATO into Central and Eastern Europe.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman highlighted what he called "the NATO-Iraq connection" in a February 17 column. The aim of the U.S.-led assault on Iraq is to limit "weapons proliferation," Friedman claims, but to do so it must "work with" Moscow. Washington's drive to expand NATO is thus counterproductive, Friedman says, since it will provoke Moscow to expand, not shrink, its nuclear arsenal.

The opposite is the truth, however. The purpose of NATO has never been to "defend Europe" against attack, but to prepare an attack on the workers states in Central and Eastern Europe, and above all the Soviet Union. This has been graphically demonstrated in Yugoslavia, where following years of feeding the flames of slaughter, Washington pushed through the Dayton "peace" accord and spearheaded the occupation of Bosnia by U.S. and other imperialist troops. The aim of that military intervention is to overthrow the Yugoslav workers state over time and reimpose capitalist rule there.

In fact, Friedman provides a fig leaf for the U.S. course of military aggression that has been carried out over the bodies of thousands of workers and farmers in Bosnia and is now setting its sights on the Iraqi people once again. Far from being a case of "Madeleine's Folly," as the *Times* column is titled, Clinton picked Albright precisely to voice and personify this aggressive bipartisan course.

When Albright issues warnings to those who "break the rules," she's talking about cracking down on struggles — at home, and the world over — of striking workers, farmers fighting the loss of land, defenders of women's right to abortion, Black rights fighters, and others.

That's why a campaign within the working class to tell the truth about the employers' war drive must focus on explaining and opposing imperialism — the worldwide system of capitalist exploitation and oppression whose workings inexorably lead to bloody wars.

The world imperialist system is today weaker and more vulnerable than at any time since the end of World War II. From Southeast Asia to the heart of Western Europe, international capital faces a protracted deflationary economic crisis — one that heightens conflicts among the imperialist powers and between them and the peoples of the Third World and workers states.

Right now, working people and youth must keep our fire on the actual slaughter that Washington is on the verge of unleashing. Many liberal pacifists and middle-class radicals instead focus on the brutal economic sanctions, which they say are starving "the poor, suffering Iraqi children" instead of hurting the Saddam Hussein government. But that argument lends credence to the reactionary idea that Washington has a right to overthrow the Iraqi government — in a less "painful" way.

Likewise, at protests against U.S. policy in the Middle East, slogans such as "Diplomacy, not war" play into the hands of the ruling war makers. Imperialist diplomacy is part of their war drive. Liberal political forces that push such demands will join the war effort when the "diplomacy fails" and the U.S. and British governments start dropping their bombs.

In face of the patriotic war propaganda, working people must unconditionally defend Iraq's sovereignty. Working people have absolutely no interests in common with the imperialist ruling families, whose war plans against the people of Iraq are simply an extension of their war against the rights and living standards of labor and its allies at home. We must instead point to the real threat to humanity: Washington. We should defend the common class interests of working people the world over and speak out to demand:

White House prepares bombing

Continued from front page

minutes with chants of "1, 2, 3, 4 we don't want your racist war." And during the hour-long question and answer session, the White House officials appeared stunned by the range of critical questions they got.

The first questioner to speak was an assistant professor at Ohio State who is from the Mideast. "The American administration has the might and means to attack the Iraqi state," he said. "But does it have the moral right to attack the Iraqi nation?"

Other hostile questions came from a range of liberals as well as right-wingers who demanded the Clinton administration "finish the job." This has become the slogan of many pro-imperialist forces, including people like liberal *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert. In a February 19 column, Herbert lamented the "suffering of the Iraqis," while insisting that "something must be done" to drive Iraqi president Saddam Hussein from power. He complained that continuing the "devastating economic sanctions and the periodic massive attacks against Iraq" had to be combined with Clinton formulating "an exit strategy for Saddam Hussein."

Seeking to justify slaughter

Cohen's performance at the Ohio State University arena included showing a photograph of a woman and child he claimed were killed by Iraqi nerve gas — the same picture he showed on national television February 15. "This is what I call Madonna and child Saddam Hussein-style," he declared. The war secretary piously denounced the Iraqi president for using "these weapons repeatedly against his own people as well as Iran." Baghdad waged an eight-year war against Tehran with Washington's backing following the 1979 revolution in Iran.

One of the moderators at the Ohio meeting asked the Clinton administration officials about a comment made the day before by former U.S. president James Carter, who estimated that Washington's bombing raids would slaughter 100,000 Iraqi civilians. "Is that realistic?" she asked.

By conservative estimates, as many as 150,000 Iraqis died in the six-week bombing campaign and the subsequent 100-hour invasion in January and February 1991.

"We care more about the Iraqi people than Saddam Hussein," Albright responded. "We have provided food.... I personally wrote the resolution that allows there to be oil sold for food" — a resolution that stipulates that nearly half of Iraq's oil revenues must go to pay "reparations" from the Gulf war. She did not mention that the seven-year-long U.S.-led embargo against Iraq has resulted in the deaths of more than 1 million people.

Opposition from Russian government

Washington is pressing ahead for a new slaughter in spite of vigorous opposition from Moscow. "I would like to relate to you our deep concern over the possible aspects of Russian-U.S. relations in the military field, especially if military actions are taken," Russian foreign minister Igor Sergeyev told Cohen at a February 12 meeting in Moscow. "That would hurt our relations," he added. "Is America ready for all the possible consequences?"

"Nyet" is not "no" for the United States under these circumstances," Clinton retorted the next day.

"By his actions, Clinton might run into a world war," Russian president Boris Yeltsin declared the previous week. Yeltsin made the warning twice in the same week.

The Clinton administration is using the impending military action in the Persian Gulf to prepare the regimes in the prospective new NATO member states — Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic — for what will be expected of them. Moscow is vehemently opposed to this expansion of the imperialist military alliance, which would station U.S. troops on its border with Poland.

Hungarian foreign minister Laszlo Kovacs and his counterparts were recently in Washington where they participated in Senate discussions on ratifying the agreement to expand the North Atlantic military alliance. On his return to Hungary, Kovacs demanded Parliament open the country's airspace and military airports for U.S. warplanes to launch bombing raids on Iraq.

Polish deputy foreign minister Radek Sikorski said February 10 that his government would make available 120-150 chemical weapons experts for Washington's military operation. "At such a crucial time, we have to show our resolve," he said. "That we can be security providers, not just security consumers."

In the Czech Republic Petr Necas, chairman of the defense committee in the lower house of Parliament, asserted February 15 that the government would supply chemical weapons experts like it did in the 1991 imperialist slaughter, when 270 Czech soldiers patrolled the northern Saudi Arabian desert. All three NATO aspirants participated in Washington's last assault on Iraq. The Hungarian regime opened its airfields and sent a small medical unit and the Polish government sent hospital ships into the region with hundreds of medical personnel.

Diplomacy charade almost over

Claiming the need to destroy "weapons of mass destruction," Clinton said the massive bombing planned by Washington will leave the Iraqi government "significantly worse off." Speaking at the Pentagon February 17, he demanded Baghdad allow UN weapons "inspectors" to go anywhere inside Iraqi territory. He did not set a deadline for the ultimatum, saying only it would be "soon." One administration official explained no date was set because the presi-

dent did not want to appear "bloodthirsty," while the White House is still going through the motions of diplomacy.

United Nations secretary general Kofi Annan announced the same day that he was traveling to Baghdad, supposedly in a last-ditch effort to avert a military strike against Iraq. After initial opposition from Washington, the UN Security Council finally endorsed his trip, but U.S. officials insisted on strict restrictions on what he could negotiate. Clinton called Annan and, according to an unnamed administration official, instructed him, "Don't jam me. Jam the Iraqis."

Many Iraqis view Annan's trip as the "last act in a show put up by the US to pretend it wants a diplomatic solution," London's *Financial Times* reported February 18. "Kofi Annan will just come here show that diplomatic efforts have been exhausted," said an Iraqi trader, "and then they will strike." CNN news reported February 18 that some UN personnel have begun leaving the country in anticipation of the coming military assault.

Washington has assembled 30,000 troops, 450 combat warplanes, and 250 cruise missiles for its war against Iraq. The Pentagon announced February 17 that it would send up to 6,000 additional GIs from the Third Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, to the Persian Gulf.

U.S. warplanes patrolling no-fly zones over southern Iraq, have been practicing bombing raids on targets for the past three months, and in some cases carrying munitions they would use to destroy buildings on a combat mission. According to media reports, Clinton's "Operation Desert Thunder" will resemble the 1991 Operation Desert Storm. It will be a round-the-clock air war of about 1,000 sorties for nearly one week — about one bomb attack every 10 minutes.

The big-business media has stepped up emphasizing Washington's supposed concern about using "smart" bombs and limiting "collateral damage," the euphemism U.S. officials use to describe the slaughter and devastation of the Iraqi civilians. On Feb. 13, 1991, F-117 fighters dropped two 2,000-pound laser-guided "smart" bombs onto an underground bomb shelter in Baghdad, killing 204 people, who were pulled from burning rubble in front of television cameras. The Air Force says its "smart" weapons are smarter now, claiming they hit 97 percent of their targets during the U.S. bombing raids in 1995 against Bosnia. "Also, in an effort to minimize civilian casualties," the February 17 *Wall Street Journal* reported, Washington plans to drop 2,000- to 5,000-pound bombs without warheads that "would cause buildings to collapse" and presumably "bury poisonous chemicals safely under rubble" — along with any people inside. Targets for the "smart" bombs include hospitals that are considered "dual use" facilities since they are the "best place to make biological weapons" where viruses can be cultivated.

Other regimes in Mideast fear response

Feeling pressure from the expected outrage of working people in the region, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak complained, "We are going to face a hell of a problem." He and other Arab head of states have been unwilling to express public support for Washington's impending slaughter. "You will not find one Arab leader who will say publicly, 'We support the air strikes,'" he asserted.

No Middle Eastern official, however, will put up much of a fuss when Washington launches its bombing raids. When pressed by intellectuals to condemn the imperialist intervention, Mubarak replied that Egyptians had to recognize their weaknesses. He appealed to Baghdad to give the UN inspectors "the green light without preconditions."

Some governments in the region, concerned about crossing Washington, have banned demonstrations against the U.S. war drive. The Jordanian government barred protests on February 10 and the Palestinian Authority outlawed demonstrations February 8.

Hundreds of people defied the ban in Jordan February 13, organizing a rally to support the Iraqi people. More than 80 people were arrested in the protest. Hundreds of Palestinian students marched in the streets of Bethlehem February 17 to condemn the U.S. war. That same day some 600 students at Cairo University in Egypt rallied against the imperialist intervention.

A section of the U.S. rulers are nervous that the impending slaughter will unleash uncontrolled forces in the region. The Saudi regime's reluctance reflects "in a powerful way the growing uneasiness within Saudi Arabia and the Arab world about Washington's role in the region," said an article in the February 17 *New York Times*, recalling the bomb attacks on U.S. military bases in Saudi Arabia in November 1995 and June 1996 that killed 24 U.S. soldiers. "There are elements within Saudi society that would like to drive the United States military from the country."

The government of Turkey has also balked at participating in Washington's military operation. The regime expressed anxiety that the U.S. government aims to partition Iraq and set up a puppet Kurdish state in northern Iraq, which could exacerbate the Kurdish struggle for self-determination inside Turkey.

After an arm-twisting visit by Gen. Joseph Ralston, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Marc Grossman, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for European affairs, Ankara now "suggests" that Washington may be able obtain permission to use the Incirlik air base to launch bombing missions. The Turkish regime had beefed up its military force at the Iraqi border by adding 7,000 troops. Turkish F-16 jets and helicopter gunships bombed Kurds in northern Iraq February 11.

5,000 fishing boat workers, engineers strike in Iceland

BY SIGURLAUG GUNNLAUGSDOTTIR AND SIGURDUR J. HARALDSSON

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Engineers and workers on fishing ships went on strike here February 3. Organized in separate unions, they have been negotiating new contracts since the fall of 1997.

The Engineers Union had voted to strike early January, but postponed it to start jointly with the deckhands and other crew members. Some 5,000 members of these unions are on strike. Processing plant bosses that have started laying off workers.

This is the third strike in four years. At the center of the negotiations now, as in recent years, is the way the workers "share," which determines wages, is calculated. Another factor in the negotiations is how trade with fishing quotas affects workers' wages on the ships. A "share" is calculated on the basis of the price the ship gets for the catch. About 60 percent of the catch is divided up among the crew. The captain gets two "shares," engineers one and a half "shares," and workers receive just one "share."

The problem is that the price for fish is not uniform. Some owners of fishing ships decide what workers are paid for the catch because they also own the plants where they have it processed.

Other trawlers and boats sell the catch on the domestic market at varying prices. Still others, especially the biggest trawlers and floating freezing plants, sell their products on international markets.

The negotiation committee for the unions have demanded that all catch be sold on the market. Whereas this was declared unconstitutional from several sides, they now call for a lower limit or index calculated on the basis of market prices, to estimate the wages.

One worker told the *Militant* that many on his crew on the *Tjaldur*, a boat that mainly catches cod and flounder on a fishing line, are interested in higher "security," i.e. payment they receive if there is no catch. It is now about 80,000 Krónur a month (just over \$1,000). On the other hand, it resolves neither the actual question of higher wages, nor employer pressures on workers to participate in renting quotas for fishing, he said.

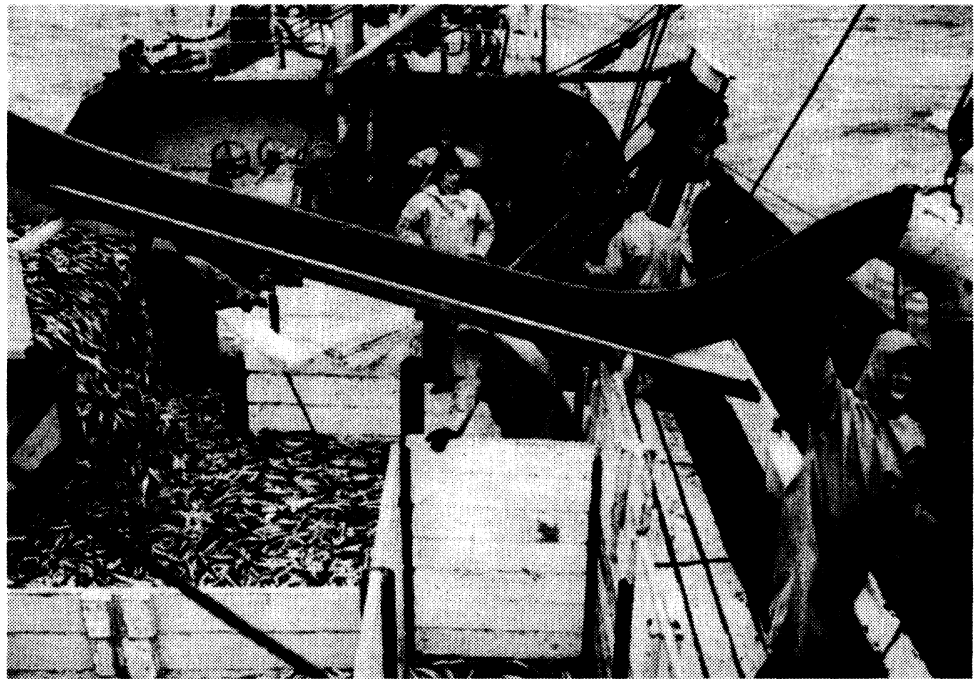
Following the last fishermen's strike in June 1995, in which workers won an increase in wages, the government set up as a part of the agreement, a committee to settle disputes about trade with quotas. Owners of ships who have quotas can rent it out in part or the whole quota, or sell it. It is illegal to make workers on the ships participate in this trad-

ing. It has been the owners' practice, however, to make workers deploy part of their salaries to rent or buy extra quota, under the threat of losing their jobs. Until 1995 it was an institutionalized practice, called "a ton to a ton" (one ton is equal to 1,000 kilograms), i.e., the crew had to pay half of the quota, the company paid the other half.

This committee has not eased the pressure on the workers. In 1996 a whole crew employed on a ship owned by the Samherji company was fired with the exception of the captain, when they collectively refused to participate in renting extra quota for fishing. Samherji spokesmen explained the firing saying "the captain couldn't use them."

February is an important season for the catch of capelin, mainly exported to Japan. The capelin swims from the east of the country to the west side, where it spawns. Ships from the Ocean Research Institute deployed east of the country have not reported any significant amount of this species yet. Many people hold the view that when it appears, the government will end the strike with a decree.

Several workers in freezing plants and on ships have told the press that they are against the government interfering contract negotiations, which has happened frequently in his-



Fishermen in Iceland resume capelin fishing in 1983 after a two-year ban. Fishing workers have gone on strike for better wages, as they get a lower price based on "shares" of the catch. Fishing industry accounts for 75 percent of the country's export value.

tory when workers on the fishing fleet strike. The government probed February 9 the possibility of banning the strike until July, but decided not to. The unions decided to suspend the strike and restart it in mid-March if no solution has been negotiated.

There are about 9,000 workers employed in freezing plants and cod production. Although a minority of the working class is employed in the fishing industry, it is the most important industry for the capitalist class in Iceland, accounting for about 75 percent of the country's export value.

During a recent conference in Kyoto, Ja-

pan, on carbon dioxide and other toxic release into the atmosphere, it was reported here that with 270,000 inhabitants, Iceland accounts for 0.01 percent of the world release (9.5 tons per person per year). When taken into the account that other industries operate on hydroelectric energy and most houses are heated that way, the figure gives an idea of the size and operation of the fishing fleet.

Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdottir and Sigurdur J. Haraldsson are members of Dagsbrún-Framsókn Trade Union.

Keeping Pathfinder books in print

Continued from Page 12

in desktop publishing. "When the idea was raised to transform book production along these lines, I initially wondered whether we would need to substantially increase the Pathfinder staff," said Mike Taber, a Pathfinder editor who took part in the meetings with volunteers in San Francisco last week.

"Now, after seeing what the volunteers have already accomplished, I not only think this will not be necessary, but the overall size of the printing and publishing staffs can be reduced."

Ruth Cheney is the organizer of the steering committee of four supporters of the communist movement in the San Francisco area who are centralizing the international project to digitize some 350 Pathfinder books.

So far volunteers from Birmingham, Alabama; Boston; Chicago; Detroit; Miami; New York; and San Francisco have written to organizers in the Bay Area saying they'd like to join the effort, Cheney said. (See excerpt from Cheney's letter to initial volunteers on page 4).

Only those who can demonstrate ability to sustain the exacting standards for quality work and accuracy that Pathfinder Press is known for will be accepted into full participation in the project. Those who join are expected to use their own resources, or funds they can raise, to purchase needed computer equipment and software or to finance travel, telephone calls, and other needs.

Many of those who have come forward, including Cheney and two other volunteer organizers in San Francisco, are supporters of the communist movement who once worked in Pathfinder's print shop. Their knowledge of the type of work that goes into Pathfinder book production — and of what is needed to get rid of time-wasting bottlenecks and inefficiencies — is invaluable to the success of the project.

Toni Gorton, now an auto worker in Detroit and a supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, worked in the prepress department of Pathfinder's shop and has designed many Pathfinder books and book covers. She has decided to take some time off work at the

end of February and come to New York to help standardize the design of books and finalize templates that will be used by volunteers in formatting digital manuscripts.

No member of the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialists, and their sister organizations in other countries will be involved in the digitization work. The important work of supporters who will do the project will free up party and YS members to maximize sales of revolutionary literature at plant gates, campuses, and working-class communities, respond to political and union struggles, and recruit new members.

If you would like to volunteer for the effort to scan, proofread, and format Pathfinder books contact Ruth Cheney at 102616.3037@compuserve.com, or write to the Pathfinder Digitizing project, c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 3284 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

Organizers in San Francisco have asked all those who are now working to scan or proofread books to inform Cheney of the current stage of their work.

LETTERS

Disagree on book review

Like many others who read *Black Nationalism and the Revolution in Music* many years ago, I am happy to see the beautifully revised and expanded version, *John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s*. I also appreciate the prominence given to Sam Manuel's review of the book in the February 2 *Militant*.

I hope the publication of Kofsky's work (both the Coltrane book and *Black Music, White Business* also reviewed by Manuel) and the review will help spark interest, debate, and discussion on the range of issues Kofsky takes up, including the relationship of music and art to society and politics.

As I reread it I find myself agreeing with some of Kofsky's conclusions and not with others. One aspect of Manuel's review disturbed me, however.

I am not a fan of the method of appreciating the work of one musician by disparaging the work of another. Manuel approvingly quotes Kofsky in such a comparison between Dizzy Gillespie and Chet Baker. One can fully appreciate Gillespie's brilliance on the trumpet (and his enormous impact on the

music for that matter) without concluding that Baker (or some other trumpeter — Black or white — who may not have been Dizzy's "equal") played "vapid" music. I have noticed this method is utilized more frequently by jazz critics than by the musicians themselves. It strikes me as contrary to what one might call the spirit of the music and to Dizzy's spirit of musical collaboration in particular.

Manuel poses the questions, "...[W]hose music is it? From what people and experience does the music draw its vitality?" I am not so sure these two questions are identical. That the social, economic, and political experiences of Blacks in the United States is the wellspring of jazz seems virtually inarguable to me. But what does Manuel mean when he asks whose music is it?

I believe it is true that the vast majority of the genuine innovators in the development of jazz have been Black. One testimony to the power and beauty of the music they have created is the fact that jazz has developed, it seems to me, into an increasingly universal art. Each musician — from the modest number of genuine innovators to the large number of talented practition-

ers — takes that gift and seeks to make the music their own. In a different way, millions of listeners (from Tokyo to São Paulo to Johannesburg to New York) do so as well. Recognizing this fact does not in any way negate the enormous contribution Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Theolonious Monk, Billie Holiday, Gillespie, Coltrane — to name just a few of the seminal figures in jazz who are Black — have made to all of art and culture. It underscores it. Geoff Mirelowitz
Seattle, Washington

Understanding socialism

Having read *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs I am writing to say that chapter 15, "If That is Treason..." has given me a greater understanding of the concept of world socialism than any of my reading thus far. The testimony offered by James Cannon both simplifies and gives crystal clarity to the many questions posed by those new to socialist thought. As a result I stopped by the Pathfinder Bookstore in Manhattan and purchased *Socialism on Trial*. While Mr. Dobbs works give an excellent example of socialism at work in the

early days of the unions in the historical sense, the verbatim text from the sedition trial offered by Goldman and Cannon proves a veritable "Expressway" to understanding the road to true world socialism. History has created several forks in that road and at times they can lead the student to some rather confusing dead end streets. Hopefully the knowledge gained through a thorough reading of this highly interesting book will help me in better explaining concepts among fellow workers. There are those among my co-workers who express worry at my interests. It is unfortunate that many have come to associate Marxism with the Evil Empire of Stalinism in Russia. One has to probe below the surface of history as offered in a capitalist society to discover the true roots of world socialism. Doing so will allow them to see the way in which the tree of a better society was intended to grow. A tree that if allowed to gain strength will bear the fruit that will benefit all members of society. To those who say, "I don't want to discuss Communism ... period," I would say read *Socialism on Trial* ... and then tell me which is the Evil Empire.

J.B. Payne
New York, New York

Only paper that tells truth

You are the only newspaper that tells the truth. I like your references to "Clinton" as "William" rather than "Bill," and "Diana Spencer" rather than the imperialistic "Princess."

M.H.
Hartford, Connecticut

'You're on top of it'

Thanks for another excellent year of real news. Especially appreciate the coverage and analysis of events in Albania and Yugoslavia. People are alive, well, and struggling for a better world, and you're on top of it.

D.L.
Chicago, Illinois

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

London attempts to oust Sinn Fein from negotiations

BY ANN FIANDER
AND DEBRA JACOBS

MANCHESTER, England — Marjorie Mowlam, the British secretary of state for Northern Ireland, formally called for the expulsion of Sinn Fein from talks on the future of Northern Ireland in Dublin February 16. Sinn Fein is the leading party fighting to end British rule in the north and for a united Ireland.

Mowlam cited claims by Ronald Flanagan, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was behind two killings the previous week. This indictment was accepted by talks chairman, former U.S. senator George Mitchell.

Sinn Fein leaders responded by explaining that they are in the talks on the basis of their electoral mandate, not as representatives of the IRA. They further pointed out that the RUC has not produced forensic or any other evidence linking the killings to the IRA, or linking the IRA to Sinn Fein.

Brendan Campbell was shot by a single gunman in a busy Belfast street late at night February 9. The next day Robert Dougan, a member of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), was shot in his parked car. The UDA is one of several loyalist — that is pro-British — death squads.

The killings were quickly followed by demands from Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble and other senior loyalists that Sinn Fein be excluded from the talks.

Mowlam said that police chief Flanagan told her he thought the IRA was linked to the deaths of Campbell and Dougan. The IRA has stated that its cease-fire, which has been in effect since July 1997, remained intact.

"Sinn Fein does not accept that RUC boss Mr. Flanagan has the moral authority to decide whether or not we should be expelled from the talks," Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams declared at a press conference the same day. "He leads a force which is totally discredited. He covered up the killings of Catholics in recent months. He has yet to reveal the forensic history of the weapons

used to kill Catholics."

Speaking February 14, Adams elaborated, "Over 100 people have been shot in the last 20 months by loyalists." In the first month of 1998, eight Catholics have been killed. Earlier this year the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) admitted to three of these killings. It was only in the wake of the UFF admission that the RUC confirmed the loyalist involvement.

The RUC has not brought forward forensic evidence nor made any assessment about who has been responsible for the other attacks and killings.

The RUC is a sectarian police force directly under the control of the British government. It systematically works to reinforce the discrimination against Catholics that is a pillar of British rule in Northern Ireland. In 1996-97, RUC officers forced a loyalist sectarian march down the Catholic Garvaghy Road in Portadown, beating Catholic demonstrators out of the way and unleashing volleys of plastic bullets.

Nationalists have mobilized against recent loyalist murders in their community and have won public inquiry into the 14 deaths at the hands of the British army during a civil rights march on Jan. 30, 1972, the day that became known as Bloody Sunday.

During the last 20 months the British army has continued to use plastic bullets against unarmed Catholic demonstrators. After a march of the rightist Apprentice Boys through the city center of Derry December 13, nationalist demonstrators were met with 169 rounds of plastic bullets from the RUC and British army.

Debra Jacobs is a member of the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers.

Independence fighter welcomed back to Puerto Rico after 11 years in U.S. jail



Militant/Ron Richards

Welcoming independence fighter Antonio Camacho at airport February 15

BY RON RICHARDS

CAROLINA, Puerto Rico — Hundreds of people gathered at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport here February 15 to welcome home independence fighter Antonio Camacho Negrón after 11 years in prison in the United States. Camacho was one of 15 Puerto Rican political prisoners in the United States. He was released from prison February 13 in White Deer, Pennsylvania.

Banners at the welcoming activity called for the release of the remaining political prisoners. A leaflet passed out at the airport protested the fact the Clinton administration has ignored petitions signed by 200,000 people calling for the release of the prisoners.

The crowd ranged from Lolita Lebrón and Rafael Cancel Miranda, who spent 26 years in prison after they fired shots at the U.S. Congress in 1954 in a protest of the colonial status of Puerto Rico, to activists in the Federation of Pro-Independence University Students.

Writing in a recent issue of the pro-independence weekly *Claridad*, Camacho explained the charges against him. He was among the "Hartford 15" defendants jailed on charges in connection with the theft of \$7.5 million from the Wells Fargo armored car company in Hartford, Connecticut. Camacho was not convicted of participating in the robbery, but rather on one count of transporting the stolen money two years later. The Popular Puerto Rican Army-Macheteros assumed responsibility for the theft of the money.

In 1985 and 1986, 15 people were arrested and charged with the robbery and related acts. All of the evidence used against the defendants was illegally obtained, including through wiretapping the homes of 10,000 *independentistas*, which violates the constitution of Puerto Rico. Before the case went to trial the U.S. government offered reduced sentences to any of the people charged if they would plead guilty. Camacho was offered a suspended sentence, which he rejected.

Canadian Supreme Court debate is part of attack on Quebecois rights

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

TORONTO — About 1000 people demonstrated in Ottawa February 16 in favor of Quebec's right to self-determination on the opening day of a week-long federal Supreme Court hearing.

At the request of the Liberal Party federal government, the court will be examining three questions: Does Quebec have the unilateral right to secede under the Canadian constitution? Does international law accord that right? If the two are different, which takes precedence?

The Quebec government has refused to participate in the proceedings, saying that it is the sole right of the Quebecois to decide their fate, not those who live in the predominantly English-speaking provinces. So the Court has appointed a sovereignist lawyer to plead Quebec's case. In addition to the Ottawa's legal representative, a series of lawyers, representatives of Native organizations, proponents of "Canadian unity," and a few supporters of Quebecois sovereignty will appear before the court.

In an October 1995 referendum on sovereignty in Quebec, the Yes (to sovereignty) vote lost by such a narrow margin that the results were widely seen as a defeat for the federal government. The June 1997 federal election results further registered the regional fracturing of bourgeois political forces. No party emerged as a national formation with strong representation in both Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. From this

position of weakness, the Ottawa government has pursued a sustained course of anti-Quebec propaganda and initiatives, one of which is the Supreme Court case.

The federal government's initiative has provoked widespread dissension among federalist figures in Quebec. Both Daniel Johnson, who heads the Quebec Liberal Party, and Claude Ryan, leader of the No (to sovereignty) campaign in the 1980 Quebec referendum, have publicly declared that it is Quebec's right to decide its own future. Ryan warns of "dangerous consequences at the political level" if this is contravened.

The Toronto *Globe and Mail* editorialized, "There is too much wrong and too much risky in this reference.... The Supreme Court should find a way to put it off."

Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard of the Parti Quebecois was given a standing ovation by some 80 students at the Université de Montréal Faculty of Law when he addressed them February 12 to explain his support to Quebec's exclusive right to decide.

Federal justice minister Anne McLellan asserted in a front page Toronto *Star* interview published the day the Supreme Court case opened, "This is not about limiting the political will of Quebecers to express their views on their future in Canada. This is about helping [people] understand that you need respect for the rule of law to exercise free democratic will." A unilateral Quebecois declaration, she said, "leads us into an abyss where nobody knows anything about

the rules that apply. You have chaos."

Only the New Democratic Party and Progressive Conservative Party forces sided with the pro-sovereignty Bloc Quebecois in a February 10 vote on a motion proposed by the Bloc in the federal Parliament. The Liberal and Reform parties united against the motion, which stated, "It is for Quebecers to freely decide their own future."

Court-appointed lawyer André Joli-Coeur, who is supposed to argue on behalf of the right of Quebec to independence, stated in his written submission to the court that this right is not because of national oppression. He pointed to the number of politicians who are Quebecois who have been prime minister of Canada and held other high offices over the past half century.

Recent events indicate differently. The January unemployment rate in Quebec, the country's second most industrialized province, rose to 11.3 percent. The Canadian average excluding Quebec was 8.1 percent.

There has been a decades-long struggle for French-language rights in Quebec, which continues today. The official send-off party organized for the Canadian Olympic team February 5 made headlines nationally. According to the Toronto *Star* "no more than five percent of the evening was spoken in French.... Many Quebecois journalists left during the [video] show in disgust."

Katy LeRougetel is a member of the United Steelworkers of America Local 5338.

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